Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Alfonsin, Sanguinetti, Sarney Meet in Uruguay 1
Sarney Arrives *[Buenos Aires TELAM]* 1
Alfonsin Arrives *[Buenos Aires TELAM]* 1
Three Sign Communique *[Buenos Aires TELAM]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Noriega Indictment Tries To Include Castro 2
Commentary on Campaign 2
Nation's Human Rights Focus of UN Attention 2
Local Group Issues Report *[AFP]* 2
U.S. Campaign 'Unjust' 3
U.S. Pressuring Argentina 3
Argentine Weekly Comments 3
Valladares Defends Israeli Need for Order 4
Foreign Minister Malmierca Returns Home 4
Comments on Regional Issues 4
Meets With Mexican President 5
Soviet Communications Minister Arrives 5
Nicaraguan Minister Henry Ruiz Interviewed 5
Commentary Praises Contra Aid Cutoff 5
Joint Soviet Group on Sugar Industry Meets 6
Power Outages Affect Harvest 6
MINBAS Directors Hold Annual Meeting 6
Pedro Miret Presides 6
Castro Holds Dialogue 6
Castro Speaks at Closing 6
Castro Closes Labor, Social Security Meeting 7

Haiti

New President Calls for National Reconciliation *[AFP]* 7
Marc Bazin Comments on Current Situation 8
Revolutionary Party Supports Nationwide Strike 10
Chauffeurs Union Not To Join 6 Feb Strike 10
People Arrested for Circulating Petition 11
Church Personnel 'Harassed' by Military 11
MPP Calls on Mass Organizations To Mobilize 12

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Duarte on U.S. Contra Vote, Zona Rosa Case 13

Nicaragua

Contra Leader Robelo Resigns From Leadership *[AFP]* 14
Some Contras Said To Surrender *[ACAN]* 14

New Electricity 'Rationing,' Outages Announced 15
Canadian Equipment Arrives 15
Opposition Parties Reject Resuming Dialogue 15
Cooperation Protocol Signed With Cuba *[BARRICADA 2 Feb]* 16
Guatemala States Interest on Debt Written Off 17
Union Figure on Journalists' 'Responsibility' 17
Editorial on 'Positive' U.S. Contra Aid Vote *[BARRICADA 5 Feb]* 17
Commentary on Revolution's 'Disappointment' 18

Panama

Government Reacts to Noriega Indictment 19
No Government, FDP Comment 19
Villalaz, Abadia on Indictment 19
Noriega Spokesman Comments 19
Ministry Issues Communique 20
Further on Communique 20
Noriega Addresses PRD 21
Says 'Reason on Our Side' *[CRITICA 6 Feb]* 23
Vows Not To Resign *[AFP]* 23
No Wish To Respond to Charges *[DPA]* 24
Letter to Attorney General *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 7 Feb]* 24
Commentary on U.S. 'Farce' Against Noriega *[CRITICA 5 Feb]* 24
U.S. Asked To End 'Plot' Against Noriega 25
Ambassador to U.S. Interviewed on Situation 25
Ambassadors to U.S., UN, OAS Recalled *[AFP]* 26
Academies' Students Withdrawn *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 7 Feb]* 26
Diaz Herrera Urges Noriega Response to Charges *[Caracas]* 26
Reiterates Charges *[AFP]* 26
Former U.S. Envoy Issues Appeal to Military 26
Paredes' Son To Go to Florida To Fight Charges *[AFP]* 27
Radio Stations Violating Law Set for Closing *[CRITICA 5 Feb]* 28
Radio Continente Closed 28
Official Orders EXTRA Editor Arrested *[EXTRA 5 Feb]* 28
EL SIGLO Employees Barred From Building 29
Civilians Fire on Demonstrators in Samaria 29
Police Increase 'Vigilance' in Capital 29
Military 'Deployment' Scored 29
Bethancourt Expresses Support for Noriega 30
UNADE Resolution Backs Noriega, Delvalle *[LA REPUBLICA 4 Feb]* 30
Esquivel 'Willing' To Assume Presidency *[QUIUBO GRAFICO 4-11 Feb]* 31
Opposition Leader Calls Delvalle 'Scared' *[EL SIGLO 1 Feb]* 31
Civic Crusade Leaders on Plans for Strike *[LA PRENSA 4 Feb]* 32
Minister on 1989 Elections' Importance 33
Lawyer Proposes New Plan to President *[EL SIGLO 3 Feb]* 33
Legislator on Nation's Economic Situation *[LA PRENSA 1 Feb]* 33
MOLIRENA's Ford on Internal Situation 34
Labor Leader Calls for Working Class Unity *[CRITICA 1 Feb]* 34
Editorial on Opposition Leaders' Return *[LA REPUBLICA 31 Jan]* 35

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Alfonsin on Meeting With Sarney, Sanguinetti 37
Army Discharges Colonels Rico, Gonzalez Naya 37
NCO's Released; Legal Proceedings Continue 37
Briefs 37
Peruvian Debt Rescheduled 37

Bolivia

Bedregal Stance at Vienna Drug Meeting Viewed *[EFE]* 37
Official Comments on Narcotics, Corruption *[EFE]* 38
Ministers To Seek Gas Payment From Argentina 38

Brazil

Sarney Leaves for Montevideo, Bogota 38
Views Relations With Church 38
Army To Rigorously Punish Acts of Indiscipline *[O GLOBO 3 Feb]* 38
Army Minister Cited *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 5 Feb]* 39
Cooperation With Venezuela on Drugs Discussed 39

Chile

Orozco Willing To Cooperate in Letelier Case 39
Government Rejects Bolivian Minister's Remarks 40
Pinochet Scores Opposition Transition Proposal *[EFE]* 40
Official on Agreement 40
MAPU Supports No Vote in Plebiscite 41
Group Proposes Gen Viaux To Head 'Transition' *[EFE]* 41
Union Leader on 'Undeclared State of Siege' *[EFE]* 41
FPMR Responsible for Valparaiso Bombing *[EL MERCURIO 26 Jan]* 42

Colombia

Car Bomb Explodes Outside Occidental Petroleum *[AFP]* 42
13 Injured in Explosion 42
Police Arrest Suspects in Mauro Hoyos Killing 42
54 Persons Killed in 2 Days of Violence *[EFE]* 43
Regional UP Leader Gunned Down in Tolima *[DPA]* 43

Alfonsin, Sanguinetti, Sarney Meet in Uruguay

Sarney Arrives

PY051919 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1843 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Montevideo, 5 Feb (TELAM) —Brazilian President Jose Sarney arrived at Carrasco Airport today at 1625 Uruguayan time. He was received by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. Sarney will attend a summit meeting tomorrow with Presidents Sanguinetti and Alfonsin.

After a small reception in the VIP Hall of Carrasco Airport, the chiefs of state went by car to the Anchorena presidential ranch near Colonia Sacramento, where they will spend the night.

Alfonsin will travel directly from Buenos Aires to the ranch early tomorrow.

Alfonsin Arrives

PY061430 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1311 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Colonia, 6 Feb (TELAM) —Argentine President Raul Alfonsin arrived at the Anchorena cattle ranch in Colonia at 1000 local (0900 Argentine time), where he is now meeting with his Uruguayan and Brazilian counterparts, Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Jose Sarney. The meeting is intended to evaluate the status of the integration process and to study measures to enhance this process. [passage omitted]

The foreign and economy ministers and other officials of the three countries are holding simultaneous meetings elsewhere on the premises.

Three Sign Communique

PY060115 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2109 GMT 6 Feb 88

["Text" of a joint communique issued by Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, and Brazilian President Jose SArney in Colonia, Uruguay, 6 February]

[Excerpt] Colonia, Uruguay, 6 Feb (TELAM) —[Passage omitted] At the invitation of the Uruguayan president, Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Brazilian President Jose Sarney, and Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today met at the presidential residence of Anchorena. This is the fourth tripartite meeting of the presidents, who were accompanied by their ministers of foreign relations and economy, ambassadors and special advisers.

During the talks the presidents assessed the political and economic situation of their respective countries and the main regional and international problems. They again expressed points of agreement on how they view these issues.

They were pleased to verify the achievements in the fulfillment of the agreements among the three countries. They studied the planned activities to strengthen and expand the current process of cooperation and integration.

Presidents Alfonsin and Sarney expressed satisfaction over the Uruguayan Government decision to join the integration process in answer to an invitation issued on 29 July 1986 in Buenos Aires. The type and degree of integration are going to be studied, and the first meeting for that purpose will be held next March in Brazil.

The three presidents expressed their decision to intensify reciprocal relations and reaffirmed their desire to expand and strengthen tripartite cooperation through the participation of Uruguay in future actions related to the integration process.

They reiterated once again their commitment to strengthening and consolidating institutions and democratic forms of government in their respective countries, and to the goals of Latin American unity and cooperation. The presidents decided to hold a new tripartite meeting during the upcoming official visit of President Raul Alfonsin to Brazil.

Cuba

Noriega Indictment Tries To Include Castro

FL061618 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1433 GMT 6 Feb 88

[From 'Hot off the Press' section of 'Morning Magazine' by Daniel Torres]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, I referred to a trial—it has to be called this because it has all the formalities of a trial—that began in Miami against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, accused of international drug trafficking.

All U.S. radio stations, the most important television stations, and the principal newspapers, are today profusely echoing this fairy tale the United States has developed in its continuation of a campaign it has been waging for more than a year and a half against Panama and, specifically, against Gen Noriega. [passage omitted]

I should tell you friends that this indictment has gotten out of hand for the United States because of its degree of exaggeration. They tried to include Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in this fairy tale. They said he was in complicity with Gen Noriega in nothing less than drug trafficking affairs. Everyone knows that Cuba is carrying out a severe struggle against drug traffickers who are passing through our waters. Everyone knows of trials against these people and their imprisonment.

Nevertheless, they tried to involve the commander in chief in this myth. The dossier had two targets [filos]: one was Noriega; the second target was our country. [passage omitted]

Last night, a spokesman said the grand jury had acquitted the commander in chief because of lack of proof. [passage omitted] It did not work. They tried to unleash this campaign but it was so absurd, so gross that it was unnatural. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Campaign

PA070136 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Feb 88

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Although not as spectacular as it was a few months ago, the U.S.-backed destabililzation campaign against the Panamanian Government and its Defense Forces continues.

Since the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which established a definite date for the delivery of the canal, all sorts of unending pressures have been used against Panamanian authorities, in an attempt to make them forget the commitment that will reaffirm their sovereignty.

The canal treaties call for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Panamanian territory. However, those troops want to remain indefinitely in the Canal Zone, from where destabilizing strategies for the entire continent are implemented.

We must stress in this analysis Panama's dignified foreign policy as an active member of the Contadora Group. Washington has been sabotaging that group's efforts to achieve a noble peace agreement for Central America.

Therefore, we can conclude that the canal and the Contadora Group are the main causes of the U.S. Government's aggressive attitude toward the Panamanian Government.

That also explains the violent subversive campaign launched last year, which still continues. The opposition's National Civic Crusade [CCN] has led all destabilizing activities, using all possible methods, from street riots to calling for not paying taxes and other civil disobedience measures.

As if that were not enough to create a tense atmosphere, the U.S. Government suspended its economic aid to Panama and restricted Panama's sugar quota on the U.S. market. In addition, the situation has encouraged capital flight and has paralyzed capital investments. Those economic measures are aimed at worsening the situation of the common people, who are already battered by unemployment and the effects of the foreign debt, to bring about discontent and antigovernment protests.

As we have said on other occasions, the destabilizing campaign is aimed at creating an unstable atmosphere which will justify U.S. plans to remain in Panama and not deliver the canal, under the pretext that there are no guarantees for the administration of the waterway.

There is also a greater objective, which has to do with the current Central American situation: Destabililze Panama and even overthrow its government—which the CCN has already openly called for. That would remove an obstacle to U.S. interventionist plans for the entire continent.

Therefore, we can conclude that the attempts to destabilize Panama are part of a strategy against Central America, in accordance with the U.S. Government's rightist plans.

Nation's Human Rights Focus of UN Attention

Local Group Issues Report

PA062352 Paris AFP in Spanish 0035 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Havana, 3 Feb (AFP)—According to a report issued today to foreign correspondents by the the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation (CCDHRN), there are "between 500 and 900"

political prisoners in Cuba. To these, we must add—the report states—the "thousands of other prisoners whose imprisonment is not justified according to world-wide norms."

Speaking to reporters, Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz—president of the commission—said he had "partially confirmed" reports "that the government is planning to release thousands of prisoners."

Sanchez Santa Cruz said this mass release will reportedly take place once the amendments to the Penal Code, which were approved late in 1987 by the National Assembly, go into effect. "We trust this will happen within the next few weeks or months," he added.

The code, which is valid as long as the amendments have not gone into effect, has "an excessively repressive and penal concept," according to the Cuban authorities.

"There are very slight indications there will be an improvement" of the human rights situation in Cuba, but "this continues to be a precarious and difficult situation," Sanchez Santa Cruz commented.

The commission's report states that "there continues to be a violation of most of the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," adding that among other things there continues to be "an unnecessary and disproportionate use of force" as well as "the systematic imprisonment of individuals." Sanchez Santa Cruz said the report is addressed to the UN Human Rights Commission, which began meeting in Geneva on Monday. The document supports the commission's "legal authority" to examine the basic human rights situation "in any country."

However, the CCDHRN president voiced his "reservations and concern that a resolution condemning the Cuban Government could paralyze a possible democratic opening, including the release of prisoners."

Sanchez Santa Cruz said "we feel the Cuban Government has not designed a policy of systematic abuse" of basic rights. He added, however, that in the nearly 30 years of the Castro regime these have occured "in an almost massive manner due to the power the repressive forces have had and still have."

The CCDHRN is similar to the Cuban Human Rights Committee led by Ricardo Bofill and "there are no marked differences" between the two groups, according to Sanchez Santa Cruz.

He said the two groups are "separate only for reasons of credibility. Credibility is essential in our work, and it is better not to give out some information than to say something false or something that has not been proven," he added. Neither group has been recognized by Cuban authorities.

The report,published today by Sanchez Santa Cruz, asked the UN Commission in Geneva to take diplomatic action so the Cuban Government "will accept the legal registration" of the CCDHRN and of "other groups of non-government observers that exist or might be created in order to monitor, in a voluntary and honest manner, the human rights situation."

U.S. Campaign 'Unjust'

FL060410 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Ricardo Molina, Argentina's attorney general for administrative investigations, defended today Cuba's compliance with human rights. In an interview with a local radio station, Molina stated that it was unjust and provocative for the U.S. Government to promote a condemnation against Cuban authorities for alleged violations of human rights.

U.S. Pressuring Argentina

FL051713 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1234 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] You know, dear friends, that the United States is carrying out a campaign to discredit Cuba. As I reported yesterday, the U.S. Embassy has taken the liberty of issuing a declaration in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in an attempt to pressure the Argentine Government to vote against Cuba on an alleged violation of human rights. This is another addition to the hostile, propagandistic campaign of aggression the United States is carrying out against Cuba.

Dear comrades, outstanding Argentine personalities this morning, affiliated with the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Latin America, issued a declaration in Buenos Aires denouncing the U.S. campaign of pressure and propaganda against Cuba, which they say is increasing in that Latin American country and in many others. The declaration states that the regional countries, Latin American countries, are subjected to systematic pressure from the United States, which has assumed total power over these countries to control their governments. It refers to the anti-Cuban propaganda campaign appearing in some newspapers that are suspiciously financed by the U.S. Government.

Argentine Weekly Comments

FL050415 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] The Buenos Aires weekly EL PERIODISTA has reported that the U.S. State Department trained Argentine journalists so they would influence their government to change its position on the issue of human rights in Cuba. The publication adds that to accomplish this, the U.S. Embassy invited the journalists to a seminar prepared as part of the campaign against the Cuban revolution developed in Miami. The publication says the State Department used the University of Miami as a cover.

Valladares Defends Israeli Need for Order

FL052247 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Armando Valladares, a Cuban-born counterrevolutionary and Reagan's new spiritual nephew, has spoken before the UN Human Rights Commission to ardently defend Israel's need to ensure order in the occupied Arab territories. Although he had to admit that the Zionist troops had violated human rights and killed 44 Palestinians, according to official figures, Mr Valladares said the Tel Aviv soldiers had had to face provocations and life-threatening situations. Reagan's spiritual nephew also urged the commission, meeting in Geneva, not to use violent language in its denunciation of Israel because this would not help peace in the Middle East.

Mr Valladares' statement was seen as converging with that of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a few days ago. The latter spoke threateningly about the Palestinians and said the best thing they could do was to barricade themselves because otherwise they would continue to be countered with force.

Coinciding with Valladares' address in Geneva, it was reported that more than 30 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank had been injured during the past few hours in beatings by Israeli troops. The situation has become tenser because the Zionist forces are surrounding all the mosques to prevent the 170,000 Palestinians living under curfew from celebrating the Moslem Friday prayers. It was also reported that the Israeli Army has given the order to provide Israeli settlers with arms so they can cooperate in the repression in the occupied Arab territories.

Foreign Minister Malmierca Returns Home

FL061250 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived in Havana yesterday after a Latin American tour that took him to Panama, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Mexico. He told journalists at the airport that during his tour he confirmed the growing determination and independence of regional countries. He added that his general impression is that there is a growing awareness that the foreign debt is unpayable and uncollectable.

In reference to Cuba's possible membership in the OAS, Malmierca said he was asked that question 26 times and he reiterated it is a matter which must be studied carefully with other nations.

Regarding the U.S. campaign against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of Panama's Defense Forces, Malmierca said it is a maneuver to create conditions to avoid returning the canal. He added that the campaign began with Panama's role in the Contadora Group. Some of the actions taken in the campaign are unprecedented in the history of international relations, he stressed, such as the U.S. Senate declaration which almost states it would be convenient for a change of government in Panama.

Comments on Regional Issues

FL060344 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The Cuban foreign minister visited Panama, Brazil,Uruguay, Argentina, and Mexico during his 17-day tour. He discussed several topics such as relations among Latin American nations. Shortly before leaving the airport terminal, Malmierca was approached by journalists. We will show you some of the moments he shared with members of the local and foreign press.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] How do you see Latin American unity regarding economic problems at this time?

[Malmierca] We could say we have confirmed the increased feeling of independence of our region's countries and also the increase of the needed Latin American unity, of the need to strengthen relations in all fields—political, economic, social. Among the ever-present topics, there have also been references to the international economic situation and the one more directly linked to Latin American countries.

The general impression we received on our visit is that awareness is growing, that the debt is unpayable and uncollectable and that collective solutions need to be found to deal with it. It is obvious that canceling the debt, annulling the debt is not enough, that different conditions need to be created. A new international economic order needs to be established creating real conditions which will allow us to follow the road to development.

After our visit to Panama, we consider that the Panamanian Government and people are willing to maintain their will and determination to work in defending their right to exercise sovereignty over the canal. We believe that, as in the past, that stand deserves the solidarity of all Latin American people.

[Reporter] We would like to know what impressed you the most, what do you think was the most important aspect of this tour though five Latin American countries?

[Malmierca] I believe that undoubtedly, what has impressed me very much has been the show of that Latin American unity, that growing awareness, the need for integration of our countries. I should also say that it has been very exciting for us to see everywhere the acknowledgement, greetings, and support to the Cuban revolution and President Fidel Castro. [end recording]

Meets With Mexican President

FL031429 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca was received yesterday by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to whom he presented a personal letter from Cuban chief of state Fidel Castro.

The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere during which Malmierca and De la Madrid exchanged views on bilateral cooperation and the international situation, especially in Central America.

The two leaders analyzed the results of the fifth meeting of the General Joint Mexico-Cuba Intergovernmental Commission held on Monday. The final document was signed by Malmierca and Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor.

Soviet Communications Minister Arrives

FL051854 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Erlen Pervyshin, minister of the communications equipment industry of the Soviet Union, arrived last night on a working visit. The Soviet minister will visit several industrial and research installations of the electronics industry during his stay in Cuba. He will also meet with other leaders from national organs.

Pervyshin was received at the Jose Marti International Airport by (Samuel Sabariego), president of the National Institute of Computer Automated and Technical Systems.

Nicaraguan Minister Henry Ruiz Interviewed

FL030350 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Interview with Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan minister of foreign cooperation by unidentified Cuban correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Comrade commander, how do you assess Cuban cooperation throughout these last 8 years?

[Ruiz] I recently commented on this; it is well known. I will repeat it without exaggerating. The Cuban cooperation is perhaps the most efficient cooperation we have; it is timely, very accurate, based on planning but also based on contingencies—which take over planning in a country at war. I am saying this because problems arise every day, things we do not plan but just arise. When we need unplanned aid, it is here at the time and with the proper purpose. This type of assistance is unusual; it exists but it is unusual. Cuban assistance is (?underscored.) That is why we can say it is important. Nothing is spared, the amount, time, technicians, nothing. Since we are at war and come across problems every day, that is highly appreciated.

Commentary Praises Contra Aid Cutoff

PA062128 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Feb 88

['Our America' commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Despite pressure and desperate last-minute efforts to persuade undecided congressmen, U.S. President Ronald Reagan just suffered one of the greatest defeats of his political career when the House of Representatives refused to approve new funds for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

The legislators rejected Reagan's request for $36 million in new economic and military assistance for the mercenaries by a vote of 219 to 211. Although Reagan made aid to the mercenaries a U.S foreign policy priority during his last year in office, the House vote automatically stops further aid. Some legislators believe the House rejection ends a chapter in U.S. policy and that the counterrevolutionaries belong to the past.

Nevertheless, the obstinate desire to continue sabotaging the Sandinist government may be able to count on the support of private aid. One must not forget that despite receiving the large amount of aid openly sent to them by the White House, the mercenaries also obtained untold donations from private organizations, most of which was linked to the Central Intelligence Agency.

In any case, and although the refusal to approve the $36 million opens the door to finding peace in Central America a little wider, the danger of aggression against Nicaragua will remain as long as the current U.S. Administration is in power.

For the moment, the House of Representatives' refusal somewhat slows the escalation of the war against Nicaragua, which has forced the latter to make extraordinary efforts to survive. All the Nicaraguan Government's pacification efforts have been met with unbridled aggression, which for 8 years has seriously damaged the economy and forced the authorities to take drastic measures to move ahead.

Defending the nation exacts a high cost for the Sandinist revolution. More than half of its budget, one-third of its industrial production, and 4 out of every 10 workers are used for defense.

The rejection of this aid for the counterrevolution will give all nations a better chance to comply with the Central American peace plan. Nicaragua might even reemphasize a number of proposals, especially those concerning direct talks with the White House.

The coming days will be important to determine what positions are adopted, both in Washington and in Central America.

Joint Soviet Group on Sugar Industry Meets

FL031753 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Feb 88

[By (Oman Giorge)]

[Text] The 15th meeting of the permanent Soviet-Cuban work group for the development of the sugar industry began today at the Cienfuegos Provincial Assembly. This is the first time in its history that the group, which comes under the Cuba-USSR Intergovernmental Commission, has met outside of Havana. Cienfuegos was selected because the sugar industry is the foundation of this province's economy and the visitors will be able to observe its industrial development.

The purpose of this group, which alternately meets in the USSR and Cuba, is to control the implementation of economic and scientific-technical cooperation goals in the sugar industry. The reconstruction of the national sugar industry is the focus of this meeting. Other matters on the agenda are: modernizing railroad transportation, increasing construction and assembly work, building new centers, and increased automation.

The spare parts problem is an important issue in discussing two fundamental matters: the replacement of imports from capitalist areas and the construction of parts in our country with help, plans, and supplies from the Soviet Union.

This group will meet for 1 week in Cienfuegos. The meeting will end on Tuesday in Havana City with the signing of a cooperation protocol.

Power Outages Affect Harvest

FL051357 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Power outages are interfering in the efficient development of the sugar harvest. The daily, GRANMA, today critically refers to this situation and says it is affecting dozens of sugar centers throughout the country. GRANMA reports that this situation caused the loss of 1,170 work hours in January.

MINBAS Directors Hold Annual Meeting

Pedro Miret Presides

FL060217 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The annual Basic Industry Ministry [MINBAS] directors meeting has begun in Havana. Pedro Miret Prieto, member of the PCC Politburo, is presiding over the meeting. The organization plans to reach a higher commercial production level than that of last year. One of the MINBAS' main objectives for 1988 is the extraction of at least 1 million tons of oil and the drilling of 85,100 oil wells for exploitation.

Castro Holds Dialogue

FL060303 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The second session of the MINBAS annual meeting in Havana has been characterized by a broad dialogue between Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, and the MINBAS branch directors.

Castro, who is also president of the Councils of State and Ministers, exchanged views with Acacio Cuellar, director of the Geology Enterprises Union, who explained that 80 deposits have been identified as reserves in the country and that they contain millions of tons of rock, sand, and clay which are essential for construction. The chief of the revolution expressed interest in the studies and search for medicinal and table water [agua de mesa] as well as the production of quartz and zeolite.

According to Martha Aloma from the Rubber Enterprises Union, some 54 million pesos worth of tires are being imported currently. Investments planned in three factories will give a large push to domestic production. Fidel showed concern over this program and asked for details of the investment which will enable Cuba to satisfy 97 percent of the demand for heavy transportation equipment by 1994.

At the time this newscast was being prepared, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro was still talking with the various MINBAS branch directors.

Castro Speaks at Closing

FL061223 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1115 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro last night spoke at the closing session of the annual directors' meeting of the MINBAS. He stated that the most important topics discussed were the organization of staffing, control, costs, and enterprise accounting. This is the key to success and the way to add to the achievements mentioned here, the chief of the revolution said.

Fidel called on the workers to strive for the efficient operation of the MINBAS and to set examples that can be followed. He said that 1987 was a year of advancement. Many of the ministry's problems were cleared up in the areas of nickel, gas, and oil refining. Not that all problems have been resolved in the petroleum industry, he said; there are still difficulties in extraction and drilling.

The first secretary of the party said the MINBAS should become a vanguard and be in first place among the country's economic organs. If we work like this in all areas, we will advance in a relatively short time, Fidel stressed.

He announced that a factory with a capacity of producing 100,000 tons of white cement will be built in the country. The country's actual needs, however, exceed 25,000 tons. [all figures as heard]

In conclusion, he gave recognition to all the workers of the MINBAS. He also stressed the importance of the electrical transformers that were manufactured in the country. This resulted in a considerable savings of income, he said.

Castro Closes Labor, Social Security Meeting

FL051334 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has given the closing speech at the meeting of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security in Havana. The meeting was attended by the organization's national and provincial vice presidents and directors, as well as inspection officials.

Fidel extensively analyzed the economy's chaotic situation created by erroneous ideas on the country's development. He also enumerated the rectification measures that are being applied and are giving fruit to the policies of the party and government.

Haiti

New President Calls for National Reconciliation

PA080230 Paris AFP in Spanish 2132 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Report by Edouard Pons]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 7 Feb (AFP)—Leslie Manigat, the new Haitian president, today called for national reconciliation and for the construction of a "free, equalitarian, and fraternal" society after his official investiture in Port-au-Prince.

Exactly 2 years after the fall of Jean Claude Duvalier's dictatorship, Manigat, winner of the 17 January 1988 elections—which have been challenged throughout the country—received the presidential sash from General Henri Namphy, president of the National Government Council.

Manigat, secretary general of the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats (RDNP—center left), earlier had sworn to respect the Constitution before a joint session of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The swearing-in ceremony took place in the legislative palace under a hot sun, which forced the president to seek refuge in the shade half way through his speech.

Delegations from approximately 30 countries, represented mostly by their respective ambassadors, were present at the ceremony. However, the Dominican Republic sent Vice President Carlos Morales Troncoso, and Venezuela sent Foreign Minister Hernan Nava Carrillo.

The streets near the site of the ceremony were deserted. Only a few dozen followers of the new president applauded him upon his arrival, danced, and waved flags with the white and green party colors. The Army deployed a large number of security forces, including some soldiers in riot gear with helmets, rifles, and bullet-proof vests.

The opposition, which consists of the country's principal parties and many popular organizations, called on the people to make this a "day of mourning and national censure," to condemn what is considered "a parody of the transfer of power." However, no demonstrations were planned or held.

Church representatives were absent, except for the apostolic nuncio.

After being greeted by Senate Chairman Louis Noizin and receiving the presidential sash, Manigat spoke to the country, which he promised to lead "vigorously" along the path of democracy, and rejected "forever the traditional temptation for authoritarianism or totalitarianism."

In a speech marked by numerous quotations from the Bible, the Gospels, Catullus, Charles de Gaulle, Lamartine, and former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, among others, Manigat, a 57-year-old university graduate, announced "the peaceful arrival, without clashes, of the period of distributive justice."

The new president also called on his "adversaries or rivals of yesterday and today" to become "friends," believing that "the only language we need is that of national reconciliation." In his speech, Manigat stressed the "rural misery and anguish (that exist) in the shantytowns of our cities," while warning "that because of the seriousness of the economic crisis and the state of the finances," the arrival of the new administration "does not mean abundance in the near future but, on the contrary, a progressive austerity to work for a better tomorrow."

This austerity, he said, does not mean "the weight of the sacrifice will fall only on the backs of the workers." He assured the private sector that "the freedom of enterprise

is inseparable from his concept of democracy," also underscoring that "private initiative will be favored with rules of the game that are precise, stable, and equal for all."

"The existence of labor unions that are responsible, informed, and vigilant in the defense and promotion of the workers' rights, recognized by the employers, will permit the naming of valid interlocutors for the new social dialogue."

In referring to "two or three countries who decided to decrease" their "cooperation plans with Haiti (principally the United States) after the bloody interruption of the 29 November 1987 elections, the new president guaranteed to the [quotation marks as received] "various governments, which are privileged partners" of Haiti, "his desire for warm and fruitful friendship."

Manigat paid homage to the "impartial friends, our Latin American brothers, for example," who abstained "from giving mistaken lessons," since "the cause of democracy emerged victorious" by overcoming "difficult times."

Manigat concluded by paying vigorous homage to the Haitian Army, which he said, "carried out its mission without bloodbaths, without civil war, and without chaos," in spite of the fact that he conceded it had committed "errors and mistakes."

Marc Bazin Comments on Current Situation

FL052112 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Marc Bazin, leader of the MIDH [Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti], one of the four pillars of the Committee for Democratic Agreement [CED], granted us an interview to discuss the strike [called for 6 February] and other matters, such as the 17 January elections.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Bazin, you are president of the MIDH and also a member of the CED, which has called a strike for Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 February. Why have you called for this strike?

[Bazin] Essentially, it is a strike to show that Haitian people are unhappy. There are those who don't understand that in the recent election—I was going to say "selection"—the most serious thing is that, once again, the Haitian people were not given the chance to choose the people they wanted to represent them, the people they wanted to lead the country. The Haitian people have not been given this chance for over 30 years. From Francois Duvalier to Jean-Claude, from Jean-Claude to Namphy, from Namphy to Manigat—it's the same thing every time. They put someone into the palace and the Haitian people never get a chance to say who they want. This week, I hear that the word out on the street is "give the government a chance". I personally think the Haitian people are the ones who deserve to be given a chance and that is why we are asking for everyone to join in this protest. Because this is a most serious thing that happened on 29 November—that the Haitian people were prevented from speaking out. And on 17 January, they decided that in any case, no one was interested in what the Haitian people had to say. They lined up a certain number of men and then chose one and told the Haitian people: It's all the same to us whether you like it or not.

That's the reason for the strike. The Haitian people are frustrated and indignant. They have been slapped in the face. They are unhappy and they want to make it known they do not approve of what is going to be done on Sunday.

[Reporter] From all you have said, do you also mean that, considering everything which happened leading up to 17 January 1988 and to the 7 February presidential inauguration, the Haitian people are going to observe the call to a general strike?

[Bazin] Yes, absolutely. In fact, this general strike [changes thought]... let me point out to you, Venel, that it isn't just we who are unhappy with and indignant over what has happened. Even those abroad see that this isn't right. They will be represented at the inauguration because they have to send someone but they are not making any special efforts. Even foreign countries are sending their ambassadors in Port-au-Prince to the ceremony, rather than some important delegation. Normally, the inauguration of a president is attended by important delegations from abroad. This year, in Haiti, they are sending their man in place. This shows clearly that foreign countries too do not believe in the elections just held, do not approve of what happened, and are in solidarity with the Haitian people in the struggle they are waging in favor of democracy and change.

[Reporter] You mean that the fact that foreign governments are going to be represented by their ambassadors on site is a kind of reaction?

[Bazin] Absolutely. From the diplomatic point of view, my friend, this is an extremely eloquent statement. Make no mistake about it, this is a very clear reaction that shows they too know that the Haitian people disapprove of what happened and that they cannot sanction it either.

[Reporter] And what do you think about the statement by George Shultz to the effect that the new Haitian president to be sworn in on 7 February should find a way to organize new elections?

[Bazin] I think it would be the decent thing to do, especially since Manigat says he is a democrat. He has a history of being an opposition militant. Therefore, I find it perfectly logical for him if he wishes to do something for the people, to seek some popular support. One of the

things I don't understand about (?his) current approach is how a man can say that the Army put him in power but that he is going to work for the people. If you are going to work for the people it is only logical that you ask the people what they think. Because when you do what you say you are going to do for the population, the people might not even notice, since they don't know you, since you have not won their respect, since they have not placed their trust in you. So I think that the suggestion that he hold elections is good advice, because it would give him at least a minimum of the legitimacy and popular support that every government needs to govern effectively.

Considering the shape Haiti is in at present, anyone who thinks he can govern the country without taking into consideration the people's opinion, without the people's trust [changes thought]...I myself just don't see how you are going to make any progress. You need everyone, everyone, everyone—all institutions, all sectors of public opinion, the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, the young people, the industrialists, the merchants, the group leaders, the group coordinators. You need absolutely all sectors of the population; a single sector is not enough. Consequently, I think that the idea of there being elections is perfectly in keeping with what we of the democratic accord have always said.

[Reporter] Another question: The new president has said that an election is valid from the moment that people voted.

[Bazin] I guess anyone can engage in any kind of legal hair-splitting they like. I also heard it said that 35 percent of the electorate voted. All I know is that the Haitian people are not deceived. The Haitian people are well aware of the fact that insane asylum inmates voted, that children voted, that there was multiple vote-casting by the same person; and with all this, a maximum of 200,000 people showed up at the polling stations to vote. Besides, in the streets of Port-au-Prince, everyone saw there was just one person carting people around in trucks.

If a man believes that is good enough, from the point of view of pure arithmetic, that is a personal perspective. But if you tell me that you want to be president, to change things; that you want justice, democracy, an improvement in people's living conditions; you cannot come and tell me that because there was an electorate-...[sentence unfinished] Do you mean to say you have the right to lead a country because two persons vote? That doesn't make any sense.

[Reporter] Mr Bazin, there was a question asked during Mr Manigat's latest news conference about the possibility of having members of the Armed Forces in the new government's cabinet.

[Bazin] Yes, I think that considering the conditions under which this government is going to take office, this is normal since the military constitute its basis. The military are the basis of the government, since it is they who chose him. Thus it is perfectly normal that they participate in the government.

[Reporter] Another question. This concerns the installation of the legislative chambers—the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies—this week. What do you think of this? Do you have any particular impression to communicate to us?

[Bazin] My first impression is that I do not see what connection there is between these guys and the government. These men were elected almost exclusively on the basis of their relationship with the former regime and I do not see how a government can draw its support from a national assembly like that to carry out a policy of justice and democracy. That is my first impression.

If those men's first loyalty is not to the government, if there is another force that is controlling them, this means that the government is rapidly going to find itself isolated.

[Reporter] What are your thoughts about the choice of a prime minister. From what was said yesterday, it seems that the prime minister cannot come from a political party, since it seems no party has a majority in the legislative chamber and, thus, apparently it is the president and the presidents of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies who will have to choose the prime minister.

[Bazin] Well, Venel, the first thing I notice is that all this does not look like very serious activity. Mr Manigat was elected with more than 500,000...[sentence incomplete] How many votes did they say he received? Was it 345,000 or something like that? In any case, there was a huge gap between him and the runner-up. So it is not very clear to me how a president with such a majority can end up with a parliamentary assembly in which no party has a majority. How this can happen is not very clear to me. In any case, what strikes me is that there is a huge difference in the number of votes that the president-elect received and the number of votes the Senators received in the Department of the West. I find this gap really extravagant, because normally you would find in the Senate people with at least the same number of votes as he. Now, I find that not only did they not get the same number of votes as he did in the Department of the West, but that they received far fewer votes. That is why all this business of whether or not there is a parliamentary majority is truly a purely speculative exercise. Because even where the number of votes should (?have) automatically (?matched), it doesn't. So no one knows what is going to come of this. But on the basis of the bureaus, which have already been formed, I notice there is a very, very strong Duvalierist current in the

legislative assembly. And I don't see how a prime minister could fail to come out of this current, or at least have the support of that current.

[Reporter] One last question: From what we heard yesterday over a private radio station in the capital, it seems you had a message you wanted to address to the population but that you had some trouble in this connection?

[Bazin] I had prepared a message for the Haitian people because I felt that as a political leader, considering the positions we took on 29 November and on 17 January, and considering the way the population responded to our calls for censure and abstention, it was my duty to address a message to the nation on Saturday 6 February. Of course there was no question of doing it over Television Nationale, since as you know they have officially said that RTNH is the government's television station and not the people's television station—not a television station for just anyone. So I went to Tele-Haiti and there I was told that they had to view my video before airing it. I did not accept this. I cannot understand how a private television station, which asks for $800 for 1/2 hour of air time can ask you to show your message to them first so they can decide if they can air it. So that is why I will be unable to address to the Haitian people the televised message that I wanted to address to it. Tele-Nationale will of course not let me air it and neither will Tele-Haiti. They set conditions that I cannot accept. So that is what happened yesterday. You can see what kind of a period we are now entering.

[Reporter] Do you have anything you would like to add, before we conclude?

[Bazin] Well, I would just like to say that the battle for democracy is a difficult one, and a long one. But the people must not become discouraged because we will win out in the end.

Something totally unexpected in the current situation is that in Haiti, the opposition consists of the majority! In all other countries in the world, I have always seen the minority constituting the opposition, with the majority being represented by the government. But here the opposite is true.

This means that we are not yet in a democracy and that the struggle we have begun, that the people have begun, must and has, of necessity, just begun. [end recording]

Revolutionary Party Supports Nationwide Strike

FL052257 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] The Haitian Revolutionary Party [Pati Revolisyone Ayisyen] totally supports the nationwide strike called for by the Committee—the Front—for Democratic Agreement. The party asks all patriots in the nine geographical departments of Haiti—merchants; industrialists; private and public transport workers; schoolchildren; university students; Catholic, Protestant, and voodoo religious organizations; management; labor, and peasants, to observe, without any reservations whatsoever, this general strike until the so-called 17 January 1988 elections.

The party asks parents to keep their children at home.

We will either live in freedom or we will die so that the country can survive.

Chauffeurs Union Not To Join 6 Feb Strike

FL060003 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] The time has come for men of good will in Haiti to understand how serious and delicate the current situation is, Haitian President-elect Leslie Manigat said in a news conference he gave recently. Manigat said the time had come for everyone to understand that it was time for peace, unity, and work to get the country out of its current situation.

Despite this patriotic appeal, observers say certain sectors in Haiti still have reservations. But the representatives of certain organizations and socioprofessional sectors say the Haitian people have suffered a lot and that the country needs a breather.

Thus, the president of the Independent Chauffeurs Union of Carrefour, Mr (Jacques Pierre-Louis) came by the studio this morning to state his opinion regarding the general strike called by the opposition for tomorrow, 6 February. [Begin recording] [Pierre-Louis] As president of the chauffeurs union of Carrefour, which is independent, every time I hear about a strike I am astonished. Why? Because I am not going on any strike.

Yesterday I called a meeting. I now have 831 union members;some of them told me about their problems. Some of them don't have vehicles to work with. So they take advantage of Saturdays, of the Sabbath—because some drivers are Adventists and don't work on Saturdays. These men don't have vehicles and (?must) resign themselves to working (?sometimes as little as half a day per week). So it is on Saturdays that they can get a vehicle with which to work. Therefore, they are going to work and the union is going to work.

I ask the Haitian Army to provide security so they can work, so their vehicles don't suffer even a single scratch. We will work.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker] Here's why I came here today. As the union president said, I came because the members are going to go out on the streets. I have my informers

who have discovered a number of things and have brought me the proof. They are collecting a bunch of nails to throw into the streets on Saturday.

But I am asking the Army to provide security for us. And my informers are going to go out with you [nou]. If we see a single nail in the street puncturing tires, we are going to get the police and go get them. We know who the people are who should be picked up. And we know the source of the nails.

[Reporter] So, you are determined to work Saturday?

[Speaker] Saturday we are all going to work, absolutely. We are all going out into the streets to work.

[Reporter] Thank you, sir. [end recording]

People Arrested for Circulating Petition
FL052347 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpt] There is a petition circulating nationwide and being signed by many people. The petition asks that the Constitution ratified by the Haitian people on 29 March 1987 be respected. Many of the people collecting signatures for this petition are being arrested. There are people who were arrested and put in jail for circulating this petition and later released. Others are still in jail. This has occurred in different parts of Haitip; for example, in northern Haiti, in the Artibonite, and in the central plateau. Many people were jailed in the Grande Anse for collecting signatures from people expressing disapproval of the way the elections of last 17 January were held.

Thus arrests are continuing. People are being persecuted in northern Haiti. Many people in (Sainte Suzanne) and Dupiti feel they are being persecuted. [passage omitted]

Church Personnel 'Harassed' by Military
FL052343 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Report from Hinche correspondent]

[Text] Police have been hunting since Sunday for the people in Cerca Laource, Thomassique, and Saltadere, who are collecting signatures for the petition that the Unity Committee for the Respect of the Constitution is circulating.

As of approximately 1100 hours, Cerca La Source was crawling with soldiers searching for the people collecting signatures. Many people have already been forced into hiding. The police are seeking them to arrest them. We are asking for protection for our committed laymen. This appeal is being made by the person in charge of the parish.

The faithful in Cerca La Source are also launching their own complaint. They say that on Monday afternoon in Cerca La Source the military entered the home of Brother (Decidel), a Misyon Alfa [the Catholic Church's literacy program] teacher. They found only his wife and daughter there. He himself was not home. They began searching the house. They found nothing. Even if they (?had had) a search warrant, we committed laymen of the Cerca La Source church protest vehemently against a criminal act like this.

We are asking: What about the rights of citizens? Can the authorities issue a warrant to go in and search someone's house like that, for no reason at all, without having any proof that the person had weapons at home, or that he really constituted a danger to the community? Can the military, even with a mandate, enter a house when the man of the house is not home? What about women's rights?

And we are asking: What do they want? What are they looking for? We are wondering if the commander is again going to say that "foreigners did it", the way he did about 29 November, when there was shooting everywhere, both in the rural areas and in town? Again, we say that we object to all these pressures. This is the first time anything like this has happened in Cerca La Source.

In Saltadere, the parish priest has been threatened. And what is happening in Los Cacaos? Father Jean, the Saltadere parish priest explains that Los Cacaos is a little tiny village 9 km from Saltadere. It has a chapel for which the parish of Saltadere is responsible. The little village is right near the border. From Los Cacaos, you can reach the international road. This road itself is the border for 36 km, from Los Cacaos to (Ti Louri), right near (La Miel).

On 15 January, a team from the dispensary in Saltadere headed by Mr (Joseph Depu), who is a Belgian missionary, came to the barracks in Los Cacaos in order to cross and get on the international highway to go to (La Gua), another chapel that the parish has; the team is in the habit of doing. That day was dispensary day for the people of (La Gua), and they had a rendezvous with the team for medical examinations and vaccinations. (Jean-Jules Etienne), also know as (Jouki), blocked the team, and they had to go back to Saltadere, which means the people from (La Gua) did not receive the health care they were waiting for.

On Saturday 30 January 1988, the parish priest had gone to Los Cacaos to the home of one of the messengers responsible for the chapel, Mr Francois Milfort; and had given Milfort a few copies of the bishops' latest message and a few sheets of paper for the Unity Committee for the Respect of the Constitution's petition. (?At the Angelus) the sergeant from the military post in Los Cacaos came to confiscate these papers from the messenger. He also threatened people who work in the parish

with the priest. Some of these people became frightened and had to hide. Consequently, it was not possible to hold a religious service in the chapel on Sunday.

MPP Calls on Mass Organizations To Mobilize

FL060022 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] A press release from the Papaye Peasants Movement [Mouvman Peyizan Papay, MPP] says that in view of the shameful illegality of the 17 January elections, which constitute an attempt to continue the dictatorship in Haiti, it is calling on all people's organizations to strengthen themselves and remain mobilized 24 hours a day so that they can unroot Duvalierism in Haiti.

The MPP asks these organizations to be alert in order to avoid being manipulated by the macoutes and to not allow themselves to be bought or to be duped by the lies with which the macoutes will attempt to demobilize them.

The note continues: We ask the democratic sector and all the organizations of the civilian society to sit down and think, so they can reach a decision on action that can preserve 7 February 1986, so the people's demands can be met.

Together, we must take measures to prevent a dictatorship forever more in Haiti. We of the MPP will participate with all our might in any action in defense of the interests of the unfortunate poor.

El Salvador

Duarte on U.S. Contra Vote, Zona Rosa Case

PA052320 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Report on news conference with President Jose Napoleon Duarte at Government House on 5 February]

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte today characterized as most important the U.S. congressional decision to vote against sending funds to the anti-Sandinist contras struggling against the government of Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua. According to Duarte, following this decision by the U.S. Congress, the Sandinist government will have no excuse for not complying with the Esquipulas II agreement. This morning, Duarte also announced that the executive commission of Esquipulas II will meet on 17 February in San Salvador. The commission is composed of the five Central American foreign ministers.

[Begin Duarte recording] As you know, I have never commented on the policies of other nations. The U.S. decision is the decision of a sovereign state that is deciding issues. There is no doubt that we are talking about a most important decision, and that now—and this is perhaps the most important part of it—Nicaragua no longer has any excuse and must comply completely and without reluctance to the accords and commitments of Esquipulas II. They must do exactly as the agreement stipulates and as was established in its true interpretation, the San Jose agreement, which we signed as a reaffirmation of the Esquipulas II plan. I believe the Esquipulas II plan demonstrates that at present it is the only viable political route, and that we must therefore give it all the support it requires. This is why I have asked the foreign minister to call for a executive committee meeting of the Central American presidents on 17 February...excuse me....[Duarte corrects himself] The executive committee is composed of all the foreign ministers, who will meet on 17 February to try to strengthen and make viable compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement. [end recording]

President Duarte also stated today that he will designate a commission to study the case of the Zona Rosa murders and issue a final verdict. The military court left the Zona Rosa case in the hands of President Duarte, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. There are supposedly three FMLN commando units involved in this incident.

[Begin Duarte recording] I have already met one of my responsibilities by presenting my opinion before the National Assembly, where I reaffirmed my support for the amnesty decree that the country has clearly stated that it wants. You know well that I sent a decree to the Assembly that was much more extensive; but the Assembly changed it. However, what is important in Esquipulas II is that it contains a philosophy we must follow. As for the specific case of [words indistinct], that could be presented. There are also judicial procedures that must be met. In this case, when the trial was conducted by the military courts, the military judge is the one who issues his sentence. This type of case appears before the courts martial, and later to the president for study. I must analyze the case. From a legal standpoint, I act as a judge in reviewing a case and am no longer the nation's president. This is why I have designated a group that will review all aspects of the case. Thus, when the final resolution is issued, it will be one completely based on legal procedures. There are other reports after [words indistinct] I have consulted, and they will go through the courts. Later, perhaps, a few of them may be appealed to the Supreme Court of Justice. In any case, they are no longer my responsibility. I repeat, in this case, I will act as a judge, will relinquish my presidential commitments, and will don a judge's robe to make a decision. [end recording]

The newsmen asked President Duarte about the latest criminal attacks on peasants, which humanitarian organizations have attributed to death squads. Duarte rejected the possibility that the Armed Forces could be linked to these attacks. However, the wife of one of the three persons whose bodies—marked with with bullet holes and signs of torture—were found last Monday [1 February] at the Devil's Door tourist center accused Army personnel of carrying out these crimes. The president reported that two of the murderers of Herbert Ernesto Anaya, the president of the nongovernmental Salvadoran human rights commission, were recently killed in clashes with the Armed Forces.

[Begin Duarte recording] The leftists' custom is to say that every crime has been committed by the government, death squads, or the Armed Forces. Why? Because it is in their political interests to get the most out of such accusations. Unfortunately, the media has contributed to this. I do not agree, and I protest the methodology being used that entails making judgments and issuing resolutions on cases that have not yet been investigated. The Sanabria case is a typical one in which the crime was committed and communist organizations reported that the death squads, the police, the Treasury Police, and the [National] Guards were involved. The leftists also blamed the Armed Forces, the government, and everyone else. Of course, all this was reported by the media to the world, [words indistinct] our efforts for the process of defending human rights. It also harms the nation. I call on you as Salvadorans, because all the media representatives here are Salvadoran. I call on you as Salvadorans to become aware that by accepting these reports as the absolute truth...[changes thought] I do not mean that news should not be reported, but if someone says [words indistinct]. It is different to report that the death squads did this than to say that the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] claims that death squads carried carried this out. Do you understand? What I can say is the following: There have been a series of crimes that are a [word indistinct] quantity. Recent findings in the

Sanabria case which the minister of justice will issue demonstrate that the other two participants, the one that masterminded the crime and the driver, are dead. One of them died here in El Volcan, and the other in an attack on a police patrol near the university, near (Taplomico). In this incident, one of the persons killed had participated in the Sanabria murder. Thus, it is now absolutely clear who the persons that committed this crime were. I have always said that they tied the government and death squads to all evildoings. [end recording]

President Duarte made these statements at Government House this morning following his meeting with (Matisse Charic,) UN director of the Population Programs Fund. The president later met with an OAS delegation, but no information has been provided on that meeting.

Nicaragua

Contra Leader Robelo Resigns From Leadership

PA051928 Paris AFP in Spanish 1715 GMT 5 Feb 88

[By Arturo Gudino]

[Excerpts] San Jose, 5 Feb (AFP)—Anti-Sandinist leader Alfonso Robelo announced today in San Jose that he is withdrawing from the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) directorate. The RN directs the guerrilla struggle against the Nicaraguan Government.

In statements to AFP, Robelo, 45, noted that his resignation from the RN directorate will become effective immediately following the organization's assembly meeting, which is scheduled to be held late February in Miami or Guatemala City.

"I made the decision to withdraw from the directorate on 27 January, and I advised the RN assembly of my decision in a letter," Robelo stated. Robelo emphatically denied his resignation was prompted by the decision of the U.S. Congress to end all military aid to the contras.

Robelo said that he will continue the "political struggle against the Nicaraguan Marxist regime. I will be at the service of the Resistance, but not as a leader of the military struggle."

The anti-Sandinist leader commented that he decided to withdraw from the directorate in mid-January after Costa Rican President Oscar Arias gave the rebels leaders an ultimatum. President Arias told them that if they wished to remain in Costa Rica, they had to give up the armed struggle.

At that time, two RN leaders, Alfredo Cesar and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, chose to move to Miami. Other leaders of the RN directorate—Adolfo Calero, Aristides Sanchez, and Azucena Ferrey—now live there.

"I did not announce my decision prior to the vote of the U.S. Congress because I did not want it to be interpreted as an opportunistic attitude, or to affect the congressional vote," the RN leader said. [passage omitted]

Even though in his statements to AFP Robelo declared that his departure "will not affect the struggle being waged" by the rebels, experts believe that his decision will strongly affect the international image of the RN and the morale of the guerrillas.

In less than 3 days, the RN has suffered two strong blows: First the U.S. Congress voted against further aid, and now one of the most important members of the RN directorate has decided to resign. [passage omitted]

Robelo admitted that the guerrillas "have been weakened" by the attitude of the U.S. Congress. He added that this will have its effects on the second round of cease-fire talks between the rebels and the Sandinists, which is scheduled to be held in Guatemala from 10 to 12 February.

"I believe it is obvious we will go to that meeting weakened." However, he rejected any possibility that a "surrender" would be signed at the meeting.

"The Sandinists interpret the cease-fire as a step toward our surrender, but we interpret it as a step toward the democratization of the nation," Robelo added.

"They want us to surrender immediately. However, before that happens, we want an irreversible democratization," Robelo stated. [passage omitted]

Some Contras Said To Surrender

PA060038 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2317 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpt] San Jose, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—It was reported today that representatives of approximately 24 Nicaraguan anti-Sandinist groups stated in this capital that they advocate a surrender because "the death of more youths" in a war without a future is not justifiable.

There was a contentious secret meeting where contra representatives expressed their "displeasure" of the refusal of the U.S. Congress to continue aiding the rebels. The contra representatives also accused the United States of not understanding the current situation in Nicaragua, according to sources close to the exiled opposition.

[During this meeting,] there was a verbal proposal to ask the cease-fire commission not to attend the next face-to-face meeting with its Sandinist counterpart, which is scheduled for next Wednesday in Guatemala City.

RN sources, which prefer to remain unidentified, today told ACAN-EFE that most of those who attended the "secret meeting," including Alfonso Robelo, agreed there should be "no more deaths" in Nicaragua.

If the American people want to stop communism in Central America, "let them come, bring weapons, and die, because the Nicaraguans have sacrificed ourselves too much, and they have paid us with a lack of understanding."

During the meeting, Robelo denied that he had resigned from the RN leadership, which has six members. According to the organization's statutes, the leadership should have seven members.

The seventh member represents the Miskito Indians, who are not wanted—according to the sources—because they do not possess ideological credibility. "This has clearly been demonstrated" in the negotiations the Miskitos have begun behind the backs of the anti-Sandinists to seek a reconciliation with the Nicaraguan Government.

The report that Robelo presented his resignation to the directorate 1 week ago, "and which was denied by him this morning," was termed as a lack of loyalty to his comrades in arms.

The sources reported to ACAN-EFE today that Robelo has already lost the leadership of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN), a political party he founded in 1978 with a group of businessmen following the assassination of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

The resignation is dated 27 January in San Jose, addressed to Jose Medina Cuadra, president of the RN Assembly—who lives in the United States—and includes the provision that it should not be revealed until the congressional debate on contra aid had concluded.

His resignation also includes the pledge that it will not take effect until an assembly appoints his successor on 21 February. The assembly cannot be held unless at least six members are present. [passage omitted]

[Hamburg DPA in Spanish at 2336 GMT on 5 February carries a similar report datelined San Jose, Costa Rica, in which Alfonso Robelo states: "I will only continue the political struggle in Costa Rica. I have chosen to continue a political struggle, not an armed struggle, and I will remain in exile in this country, which is an example for the world. I will continue to struggle politically against the Sandinists, and I will not participate in military decisions of the RN."]

New Electricity 'Rationing,' Outages Announced

PA062225 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] At an INE [Nicaraguan Energy Institute] news conference, Eng Emilio Rappaccioli [director of the Nicaraguan Aqueducts and Sewers Institute] stated there will be additional electricity rationing and two power outages a day. In addition, beer breweries will temporarily halt production, to emphasize the need to save energy to gain time to repair plants that are in poor condition. Francisco Matute and Raul Oviedo [not further identified] stated that the INE is working at top speed, and their belief that by Monday or Tuesday the [electricity-generating] plants will be partially repaired. Thus, we must try to conserve energy while the INE makes those repairs.

Canadian Equipment Arrives

PA030457 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] A Canadian donation of 600 tons of electrical equipment and materials arrived at Corinto port today.

The electrical materials and equipment will be installed in the electricity plants, which are in poor condition, to partially resolve the country's electricity problem.

Opposition Parties Reject Resuming Dialogue

PA041623 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Most of the 14 organizations and political parties that for 45 days had been demanding that the government resume the national dialogue today did not attend the meeting called by the government to discuss topics of interest. Among these topics is a 14-point agenda proposed by the government.

The MAP-ML [Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Party] was the only party to attend the meeting. As for the boycott by the other politicians, a MAP-ML representative stated:

[Begin recording] Some parties, in this case those belonging to the Democratic Coordinating Board, are not interested in a dialogue inside Nicaragua. They are more interested in a dialogue [words indistinct] contras in Costa Rica. [end recording]

The government reacted to the opposition's lack of interest by noting:

[Begin recording of unidentified government spokesman] As another proof of the flexibility that characterizes our actions, we propose resuming the debates on topics related to improving the national political process, with the understanding that attaining peace is a necessary condition for the development of democracy in our country. [end recording]

The government's new proposal includes debating matters such as the electoral process, the independence of the judicial branch, and the economic rights of workers, among other topics.

Politicians from several parties who gathered at Conservative Party headquarters sought to justify their boycott:

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] I believe we are serious political parties, and we will therefore not accept calls made through the newspapers. [end recording]

It was learned that a leader of the Social Democratic Party today discussed with the U.S. Embassy a document issued by the opposition parties that will later be presented to members of the party. We asked Edwin Millesca of the Conservative Party about the parties' stands in that document:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What are the contents of that document?

[Millesca] Frankly, I am not authorized to disclose the contents of that document at this time. However, I must say that we will discuss and issue a document that will be made public in due time. [end recording]

The government stated it is willing to allow the opposition to participate in a commission that will determine what constitutional amendments should be discussed:

[Begin recording of unidentified government spokesman] We had agreed to that, but the commission was only created on 15 December. We were waiting for the creation of the commission to learn the positions of the opposition and of the government. [end recording]

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Cuba

PA030430 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Feb 88 p 5

[Text] The ninth session of the mixed intergovernmental commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation concluded yesterday following 6 days of work. The presidents of the Nicaraguan and Cuban delegations also signed a cooperation protocol.

The session was presided over by Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, minister of foreign cooperation; and Ernesto Melendez Bachs, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

The head of the Cuban delegation noted that the results of the meeting were very positive, and were very important for Cuban-Nicaraguan cooperation.

"We have benefited from our mutual experience," Melendez asserted. He added: "We have ascertained the results of the experience gained throughout these years of the revolution, even though we have had to maintain our economic and social development while withstanding an act of aggression. We feel quite satisfied, and our relations will continue in 1988."

The agreement benefits the two states and includes the health, livestock, industrial, agricultural, mining, and sports sectors, among others. Cuban cooperation is received in practically every sector.

Yesterday's meeting concludes the work carried out for 1 year. At least 26 top-level Cuban officials visited our country in September for bilateral discussions of the terms of the agreement.

The most important donation received in 1987 was an additional 100,000 tons of oil, and the fulfillment of a program to send food, clothes, shoes, medicine, and sports equipment to the Autonomous North Atlantic Region.

The last shipment of aid arrived at the port 1 day after the criminal counterrevolutionary attack on the civilian population of Siuna, Rosita, and Bonanza.

The main achievements in 1987 include the work of the Cuban medical brigade, which involved more than 1 million activities; and the training of 1,200 Nicaraguans in different branches of the industrial, agricultural, and construction sectors.

The activities also include the rehabilitation of fuel storage bases in Bluefields, Puerto Cabezas, Corinto, and Masachapa; and the Cuban participation in repairing and maintaining the Central America and the Managua, Nicaragua electricity plants.

Joint research projects were carried out to improve basic grains such as sorghum, soybeans, and corn. Work was also carried out to improve the efficiency of the livestock sector.

The first mixed session was installed in February 1980. Nevertheless, Cuba's solidarity was evident since the early days of the revolution, when at least 20 doctors were sent to provide assistance.

The scope of Cuban aid has continued since then with an annual contribution of at least 30 million pesos ($40 million) in materials and—although it is difficult to calculate its worth—technical assistance.

The extraordinary contributions of the Cuban people have continued for 9 years, even in strategic projects like the construction of the Las Minas highway. Cuba was also present in times of tragedy; for example, when Hurricane Aletta destroyed our communication network in the Pacific sector.

At least 50 Cuban specialists are currently working to repair our energy plants.

Likewise, Nicaragua has offered its assistance in the communications sector, and the production of white sugar, which represented savings in foreign exchange for the Cuban economy.

The program for 1988 is marked by projects in the public health, sugar industry, agricultural, construction, and educational sectors. This is in addition to more aid for the Atlantic coast and valuable donations—for example, chemicals, a mobile crane, a furnace, and education material, among others.

Guatemala States Interest on Debt Written Off

PA031608 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] In an act of solidarity with our nation, the Guatemalan Government has decided to write off the interest on a Nicaraguan debt of nearly $60 million. This was announced by Guatemalan Ambassador Raul Gonzalez Garza, who explained:

[Begin recording] In an act of solidarity with our Nicaraguan brothers, the Guatemalan Government—through the Central Bank of Guatemala—has renegotiated Nicaragua's debt with Guatemala. Guatemala has written off the interest on Nicaragua's debt, which is an example for the rest of the Central American states—and particularly the world—to follow. In other words, Nicaragua has promised to pay off the debt without having to pay any interest on it. The central banks have restructured Nicaragua's debt with Guatemala to be repaid over a 15-year period with annual amortization. This means that an amount equal to the interest owed has been written off.

There is much merit in this—for any country—because we are opening the way to applying similar methods to the debts that the five Central American countries have with each other. [end recording]

The Guatemalan diplomat also noted that the presidents of the central banks of the two states will implement what is known as dedollarization. This means that both imports and exports will be paid for in local currency.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] We do not want Guatemala and Nicaragua to do business only in dollars. Guatemalan and Nicaraguan businessmen, in agreement with the central bank of each state, are studying ways to pay for each nation's products in local currency. In other words, we would use cordobas and quetzals, and gradually eliminate using dollars to do business. This is what they term the dedollarization of Central America.

[Reporter] What economic advantage would this give the two countries?

[Gonzalez] The economic advantage is that each country, each businessman, and each industrialist can come to Managua or go to Guatemala and make purchases with local currency. Guatemalan businesses would accept cordobas, while Nicaraguan businesses would accept quetzals. This may or may not entail some risk. In general, however, the point is that we can use our own currencies for payment without giving businessmen of either country an unfair advantage. [end recording]

Union Figure on Journalists' 'Responsibility'

PA070327 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Lily Soto, secretary general of the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists [UPN], has stated that journalists must work for peace in the new phase of Nicaraguan journalism now that new news broadcasts have begun. Approximately 10 new newscasts have started within the framework of Esquipulas II.

[Begin Soto recording] The new newscasts and information bulletins, which were ended during the state of emergency, are further steps to fulfill the Esquipulas commitments agreed to on 7 August 1987 and ratified in the Esquipulas III document, which opened a process to seek peace.

We journalists believe these new radio newscasts also strengthen Nicaraguan journalism in general. This is because several colleagues who were already working in other media will have the opportunity to interpret what is happening.

However, we warn local newsmen in general, including our colleagues who will openings in these new media, to be alert in view of the current events concerning the peace and amnesty process itself.

Why do we warn our colleagues? Simply because the commitment acquired by newsmen when freely carrying out their professional duties involves a high degree of responsibility. What does this high degree of responsibility involve? It means working in accordance with the code of journalistic ethics signed by the UPN, which is a member of the Latin American Journalists Federation.

What does it mean to work in accordance with that code of ethics? It means we must take into account the source as well as the target of the news. We must find ways to obtain detailed information, properly investigate the facts, and communicate the facts to the remainder of the population. [end recording]

Editorial on 'Positive' U.S. Contra Aid Vote

PA052353 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Feb 88 p 3

[Editorial: "Good for Congress, but..."]

[Text] The effects of the refusal of the U.S. Congress to officially continue financing Reagan's war against Nicaragua can be described as positive insofar as this measure gives the peace process, which began with the signing of the Esquipulas agreement, a new perspective.

This new perspective, which demands that other Central American governments assume a different attitude and reassert their pledge to fulfill their portion of the accords, is not free of obstacles and danger.

The imperialist aggression has not been defeated. Reagan will continue to maneuver and exert pressure and blackmail to keep his policy of aggression, terror, and death alive. The threat of direct intervention will not disappear simply because the U.S. Congress has refused to give more funds to the mercenaries.

That is why the permanent mobilization with which we have defended the peace process throughout these months is still imperative. We must fulfill the plans to complete the training of all the Active and Reserve Military Service units; march to the front to annihilate the remaining mercenaries; ration energy resources; and be the victors in the Battle of the Coffee. [as published] These are some of the fundamental tasks of revolutionary power.

The negative decision of the U.S. Congress also affects the country's political situation. The vote recognizes the illegitimacy of the counterrevolutionary project. This means that those who have vacillated between a brazen support for the mercenaries and hesitation now have the chance to amend their position. If the Central American presidents and the international community have recognized the legitimacy of the revolutionary government, and if U.S. congressmen have recognized the illegitimacy of the contras, then the least the opposition can do is admit the truth and join the democratic political process taking place in the country.

It is never too late to correct a mistake. This is even more true when the correction contributes to peace being achieved. The doors to a dialogue have always been open for those who want to participate by setting aside selfish interests and displaying a willingness to build, not to destroy.

Commentary on Revolution's 'Disappointment'
PA080323 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] What do we mean when we say that, above all, we want freedom? I often wonder if we do not harbor too much hope in the Constitution, the law, and the courts. These are vain hopes, believe me; these are vain hopes. Freedom lies in the hearts of men and women, and when it dies there, no constitution, law, or court can save it. No constitution, law, or court can do much other than aid it. As long as it is alive there, it does not need a constitution, law, or court to save it. These were words by Magistrate Lerner Hans. Magistrate Hans is so right. Nicaragua has been plagued with constitutions and laws that guarantee or claim to guarantee freedom. The revolution could not be exempt from this affirmation. Before taking power, it had promised the sweet fruit of freedom that had been trampled on and forgotten for 45 long years. Those were years in which hundreds of Nicaraguans were sent to prison and others gave up their precious lives. Hope arrived with the new regime, but what a disappointment it was. The revolution was born heartless. What a strange phenomenon.

One month after taking power, the first decree that was issued limited freedom. It was later seconded by three more decrees that converted freedom into a state of agony, and was later killed by the state of emergency in March 1982. All the sweet promises disappeared in a single stroke; all the hopes of a new world, of a better life, succumbed. It gave way to something that Nicaraguans were not acquainted with—hatred. It rushed in suddenly, shaking the foundations of a society that thought it had attained liberation, that had given the blood and lives of youths who fought relentlessly to eradicate vice, corruption, and despotism.

The government platform, the rights of Nicaraguans that the revolution offered, were again buried and were followed by an implacable persecution. On 19 July 1979, many opportunists flourished among the 300 Sandinists. They were more papist than the pope and asked for the heads of those who did not think like the ruling government leaders. Then the confiscations followed here and there; there were persecutions and witch-hunts. Thousands of Nicaraguans went into exile abroad; thousands of others filled the prisons as never before seen in our history, while thousands died and thousands were deprived of their rights.

Radio Corporacion could not be an exception to this. It was occupied militarily for 1 week, and was sentenced to silence from March 1982 to 1 February 1988, when a political crossroads permitted us to meet again with the Nicaraguan people, to continue to speak their language. But do not get your hopes up; the horizon is still filled with dark clouds. The law on the communications media, which is a sword hanging over our heads, is still in effect.

That revolution, supported by all sectors of the nation, which could and still can be the beacon of the world—the long-awaited third way [tercera via]—vanished like a soap bubble and became a bitter truth, a big lie. Today, we come before you, without having been stained by the hate that has been the daily bread given to us. We come with love, hoping that our contribution will aid in rebuilding the moral, spiritual, and material reencounter of the fatherland that belongs to all of us. We are still in time. Let us save Nicaragua.

Panama

Government Reacts to Noriega Indictment

No Government, FDP Comment

PA052150 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1909 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Neither the Panamanian Government nor the FDP [Panama Defense Forces] have issued any official statements in reponse to the indictment of Army Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega on international drug trafficking charges.

Defense Forces sources told ACAN-EFE that no official communique has been released concerning General Noriega's formal indictment by a Miami grand jury for extortion and offenses relating to drug trafficking. In addition, presidential office and Foreign Ministry sources also told ACAN-EFE that there has been no official communique on this matter.

Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias, however, met this morning with Attorney General Carlos Villalaz; the subject of the meeting has not been revealed.

On Wednesday, 1 day before Noriega's formal indictment had been announced, the General State Council (made up of cabinet ministers, members of the Armed Forces General Staff, and directors of state organizations) issued a communique expressing its "firm and unconditional" support of President Eric Arturo Delvalle and General Noriega.

The communique repudiated foreign intervention in the country's domestic affairs and "the international use of slander, intimidation, and blackmail to undermine the Panamanian Government's prestige."

Panamanian opposition newspapers reported the indictment in their front-page headlines, while newspapers sympathetic to the Defense Forces, including the independent newspaper LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, made no mention of the indictment.

An unusual police presence had been seen in the streets of the capital even before Thursday's release of the story concerning the indictment of the Panamanian military chief.

The opposition Civic Crusade issued a call to the population to peacefully block the streets today, "to reject the presence of criminals and outlaws at the head of the government," but this call had no appreciable effect.

Groups of people demonstrated on 50th Street, where police forces were deployed. The demonstrators shouted anti-Noriega slogans, but there were no incidents and traffic was normal.

Antiriot forces were also seen deployed around the University of Panama campus and in front of the Chamber of Commerce building, headquarters of the Civic Crusade.

Civic Crusade spokesmen expressed their concern today that there might now be even harsher repression against civic opposition groups.

Villalaz, Abadia on Indictment

PA051900 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1749 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Attorney General Carlos Villalaz met this morning with Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias at the Foreign Ministry. According to unofficial reports, it was a consultative meeting between the two government officials regarding the indictment filed against General Manuel Antonio Noriega in the United States. There were no further details on the meeting held behind closed doors between Foreign Minister Abadia and Attorney General Villalaz, which lasted until late this morning. However, when leaving the Foreign Ministry, Villalaz told our reporters that he would give them further details on his meeting with Abadia at the Attorney General's office. Several times after the meeting, our reporters unsuccessfully tried to interview Villalaz who, according to a secretary, was not in his office.

Noriega Spokesman Comments

PA060053 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0017 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega today denied the charges made against him in Miami, where he was accused of drug trafficking. He stated that this is a plan to intimidate Latin American patriots who dare stand up to the United States.

Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, chief of the Defense Forces public relations directorate, reported that Noriega had issued the statement to U.S. journalist Mike Wallace, who will air it on the program 60 Minutes. The CBS network will broadcast it on Sunday.

The Panamanian military officer noted that the charges were completely false, adding that this is simply another phase in the plan to intimidate Latin American nationalists and patriots who dare stand up to the United States.

According to Maj Lopez, Gen Noriega said that the trial is simply a clumsy political maneuver, and that in due time, he will legally prove that the charges simply spring from the interests of the U.S. Government.

Maj Lopez added that the similarity between this case and that of Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling is not merely a coincidence. Pindling was indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice for his alleged ties with drug traffickers. However, the charges did not stop

the Caribbean nationalist leader from winning the last election by an overwhelming majority. The Bahamian people closed ranks around a man whom the United States sought to intimidate and annihilate for his well-known nationalist stands.

Gen Noriega's spokesman commented that these antidemocratic tactics the United States employs against its allied and friendly countries are not the best solution for peace and development in the region. We must really do something to cast off the feeling of national shame, he noted.

Ministry Issues Communique

PA052315 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2205 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian Government warned today that "it is extremely dangerous to rashly challenge the Panamanian people's patience, good faith, and tolerance with campaigns that could provoke unpredictable reactions."

The statements were made by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry today and it is the first official reaction to news reports issued Thursday that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, was indicted by a Miami grand jury and charged with collaborating in international drug trafficking activities.

Similarly, the official communique states that Panama has been the subject of a campaign of "slanders and libels," "aimed at destabilizing the Panamanian Government and discrediting its leaders."

The note adds the campaign against Noriega began after he rejected a request made by Vice Admiral John Poindexter in mid-1986. Poindexter, then director of the U.S. National Security Council, requested "that Panama withdraw from the Contadora Group and change its policy to suit Washington's desires and interests."

The communique states the U.S. Government "made" the grand jury "issue" its decision at the same time the U.S. Congress voted on "contra" aid, "to distract public opinion from the decline of its foreign policy in Latin America."

With that "planned" decision by the Miami grand jury, President Reagan's administration also wants to "make the world believe the United States is now punishing the person it itself discredited."

Likewise, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry questions the credibility of the evidence presented against Noriega, which is based on statements by convicts "who are testifying in exchange for reduction of sentences or immunity in pending trials." That evidence is also based on statements made by people who were "fervent defenders" of Gen Noriega, but who have become defamers, "now that they are resentful, because they have been pushed aside."

Without giving any other details, the communique states there are documents "expressly proving the destabilization campaign against the Panamanian Government includes exerting pressure on Gen Noriega through false articles in U.S. papers linking him to drug trafficking and related crimes."

Finally, the note says the campaign is being carried out because the United States is unable to reach a new agreement with the Panamanian Government concerning the extension of its military presence in Panama.

The treaties signed in 1977 by the two nations establish that control of the Panama Canal will pass to Panama on 31 December 1999, and the U.S. troops stationed in Panama will leave the country on that same date.

The communique concludes by saying: "Panama vigorously and angrily rejects this new attack on its leaders and its Army and asserts that neither this nor any other action will make us give in."

Further on Communique

PA060120 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2357 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Foreign Ministry communique issued in Panama City on 5 February]

[Text] The Republic of Panama has been subjected to a systematic campaign to destabilize the national government and discredit the leaders of the nation.

Political parties and business and peasants' organizations have reported this again and again. Likewise, Panamanian Government officials have strongly repudiated this way of conducting international relations. Panamanian polititical and diplomatic representatives have again and again reported this orchestrated campaign of slander and lies, and they have always been supported both here and abroad. They have also been assured of the understanding and solidarity of friendly countries by international labor, student, and political organizations.

In mid-1986, Vice Admiral Poindexter, at that time head of the U.S. National Security Council, sought the support of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, for Panama to withdraw from the Contadora Group and adjust its foreign policy to the political interests of Washington. This request was turned down. Since then, an unending campaign has been unleashed to discredit Noriega with the basest and most loathsome slanders in leading U.S. newspapers, news agencies, and radio and television stations.

According to the U.S. legal system, a grand jury hears testimony and then decides whether there is sufficient evidence to indict a person. The U.S. Administration scheduled the [release of the grand jury's] decision to coincide with when Congress would decide on aid for the so-called contras. In this way, the U.S. Administration took the public's attention away from the fact that U.S. policy in Latin America has collapsed, and it boasted of having chastised him whom they themselves have slandered. To obtain this decision [by the grand jury], the administration used a witness who had been convicted by the courts and who offered to appear in court in exchange for a reduced sentence or immunity in a pending trial. What credence can be given to the testimony of a convicted drug trafficker who has been promised a reduced sentence in exchange for his making charges against free men of other countries? Leaders of other nations have in the past been victimized by such actions. What credence can be given to the testimony of a person who, until a few weeks ago, was a fervent supporter of Gen Noriega and, resentful because he was removed from office, has now become Noriega's slanderer? If this man was not believable in the eyes of the U.S. press and administration while defending the Panamanian Government and Defense Forces, why is he believable now that he has made up his mind to oppose them?

In the documents that have slowly been published, it is said that part of the campaign to destabilize Panama included pressure on Noriega by publishing in the U.S. press false rumors claiming he is linked to drugs and related crimes.

The 1977 treaties clearly establish the end of the U.S. presence in Panama in 1999. Therefore, in 1990 [as heard], the United States must either reach a new agreement with Panama to extend its presence here, or instead begin to dismantle its bases. Considering the political situation in Panama, such an agreement is impossible. For this reason, the U.S. Administration has spared neither efforts nor insults to isolate Panama and destabilize its government.

In this stubborn campaign of slander and libel against Gen Noriega, the U.S. Government purposely ignores his extended struggle against drug trafficking. For his efforts, Noriega has been highly commended and recognized, including by the DEA and the U.S. Department of Justice. All of Panama strongly and indignantly repudiates this fresh onslaught against Panamanian leaders and the Defense Forces, and warns that none of these actions will change Panama.

Likewise, the Panamanian Government hereby warns it is extremely dangerous to recklessly try the patience, tolerance, and good faith of the people with a campaign that could elicit unpredictable reactions.

Panama, 5 February 1988.

Noriega Addresses PRD

PA060416 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0301 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP, at a dinner hosted by the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, San Miguelito chapter, at the Rey Kung restaurant in Panama City—live]

[Text] I thank [San Miguelito] Mayor Balbina Perinan for her invitation to attend this event today where San Miguelito testifies to the fatherland and history that it is a human group, a community that is willing to improve itself, and that it has a nationalist awareness, an anticolonialist awareness, and a Panamanian awareness. We are proud to be here. Honestly, after listening with great emotion to the previous speakers, it is difficult to maintain that emotion and heighten it. Therefore, my participation here will be of brotherhood, of comradeship, of reaffirmation of the principles and thoughts of which we have all made a common cause, a mission, an objective, and a struggle.

Today's generation, which is represented in various stages, was born under colonialism, under the colonialists' supervision, under the colonialist masters' control. This generation, during various chronological stages, did not need—nor does it need—any doctrines or principles that are not Panamanian, because it has had enough with all the texts of liberation that have been written by the colonialists, and which they taught us. That is why we all have the principles of decolonization. We have those principles of liberation; we have a willingness to take the last remains of the presence of a foreign army to the edge of the two oceans.

A Peronist group from Argentina once told me that Panamanians did not realize the role we were playing in history. They told me that I was not aware of what was really going on, and that within the great experience they had had, and as a result of the political analysis made by their groups, and as a result of the international meeting they had just attended in the Southern Cone, the conclusion of the strategic discussion was that here in Panama we were waging, and we are going to wage, the last battle of Latin American dignity against colonialism. [applause; chants: "Panama, yes; Yankees, no."]

They said we Panamanians were an example they envied. They said that in order to explain the failure of their ideas about the Malvinas, they had tried to find a Panamanian way to explain why they had failed.

That lesson, which I so attentively learned and which many midlevel officers at the meeting in Mar del Plata learned... [changes thought] We had the awareness and the reaffirmation that first, we were not mistaken about

what we thought and what we said; and second: Man's true life on earth is to be born, to produce, and to die. That is the cycle. There are those who are only born and then die.

The second phase of a human being's life: To produce, to mentally produce, to produce a fatherland, to produce achievements, and to produce things that contribute to the continuation of life. [sentence as heard] What kind of fear should a man feel in the universe where he is nothing more than an atom, nothing more than a particle, a grain of sand on an immense beach?

What fear can be felt by those who fly to heights in search of summits to plant banners and who look beyond the hills? [applause]

Therefore, when Fox from the State Department said that the last resort for Noriega was to kill him. [laughter] When they play with that metaphor, one wants to fight more. This is not a problem of a man, of a name; this is a problem of a people, of a state, of a nation, and of a cause.

I recall that in 1970, when I was promoted to lieutenant colonel and appointed to the G-2, Torrijos called me up in 1972 and told me: I have a problem because these—he used one of those words used by Perinan a few moments ago—are linking the cause of liberation and of the canal treaties with drugs, and they are leading me into an ambush. [sentence as heard] U.S. Federal agents had already violated our sovereignty and they had taken a Panamanian to the U.S. courts. They looked for convicts and made him [not further identified] testify—this can be found in Congressional records. They stopped Foreign Minister Tack and humiliated him at U.S. Customs. I recall going to Washington to the—it used to have a different name, not the DEA. I spoke to the person in charge of that agency and I realized they had already begun working on an indictment against General Torrijos' brother. I saw certain documents and the pressure—and the director at that time admitted it—was definitely political.

Therefore, we have seen that in the evolution of peoples or in the struggle for the people's liberation, especially when those people are facing giants—a giant that is a 2-hour flight from its alleged colony—the method of psychologic warfare is used to lower spirits and discredit leaders.

It is all included in the manual that was written and circulated when the war began in Nicaragua. Consequently, we ask ourselves—not to explain but to get a better idea of the situation...[changes thought] Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia are the Andean production centers, and they have, or should have, an historical concept related to the growth of this plant. When the Spaniards arrived, the Incas already were using this plant, and they continue to use it. Why have no actions been taken against Bolivian and Peruvian officials or anything of that sort? Many laboratories were built and still operate there, but no action hasbeen taken and there is no crisis. Why? Because there is no U.S. Southern Command there; because there is no Panama Canal; because those countries do not have the strategic position that the United States needs. [applause]

Consequently, this is completely clear. It is even more clear when we remember that on 17 December 1986...[changes thought] David Wallace [as heard], the 60 Minutes journalist who interviewed me yesterday, was surprised when he heard all that had happened on 17 December 1986, when Admiral John Poindexter came here. Poindexter came to request a beachhead against Nicaragua. He wanted Panama out of Contadora. And he wanted Panama to keep quiet, because Panama and Mexico were stirring things up and preventing the United States from assuming the leadership of Nicaragua. He wanted the Defense Forces out of what they called political schemes, because this set a bad example for other Armed Forces in the Central American isthmus. Poindexter also said that the Panama Defense Forces were the United States,' quote, traditional, unquote, strategic ally, and that many noticeable benefits could be obtained from that joint enterprise.

The United States did not care if Barletta had fallen. The United States did not care if Spadafora had died. The United States did not care about [Lieutenant Colonel Julian] Melo or drugs. No, no, no, no. All the United States cared about was the Central American isthmus' strategic importance. Given that the answer was no... [changes thought] I did not say no; the captain who was sitting beside me and who was acting as translator was the one who said no. The captain reacted violently and turned down the proposal. When I introduced that captain to Mike Wallace yesterday, he was astonished by the captain's account of what had happened.

As a result of the commander's, the captain's, and the major's negative response at the meeting, Poindexter bit his pipe, hit the chair with his hand, got up, and said: Just you wait for the consequences. These are the consequences, which began immediately afterward, in 1987. Consequently, we clearly see what kind of struggle is taking place. We have stirred up the struggle, because an historical mistake was made when we believed that our problems had ended when the Panama Canal treaties were signed. We thought that our problems had ended, and we all went home. We thought we were conquerors because we had raised our flag on Ancon Hill.

Life has told us that all the time, since 1977, when we did nothing, is the debt we have, the patriotic debt that we have right now, and must repay. [applause; chants: "We have progressed; the struggle continues."]

There is a mathematical way to analyze the problem. This is 1988; 11 years until 1999. Next year, elections must be held. The electoral schedule must be accepted. It is not a question of them wanting to hold elections

earlier. That impasse over wanting to hold elections earlier than scheduled has a specific reason. It is a mathematical reason. They do not believe the political parties, in which they are investing so much money and devoting so much time to, will win the 1989 elections. That is why they want to make those parties win now. [applause]

What is needed during those 11 years—plus 5 years of government, that would be 1994; that is 5 more years from 1994 to 1999. At that point a whole new generation will be anxiously awaiting to see what the return of the canal in 1999 will bring. I foresee that there will be social, student, economic, and political groups waiting to see how the return of the canal is going to work out, and how it is going to affect the development of the country and Panamanian society.

At that time, in 1994 or 1995, no one—no government, no president—will dare sign a treaty to allow the bases to remain, and that is the problem. Since that date would be too close to the delivery date, it must be done now. It must be done now, because they will not be able to so tomorrow. [applause]

The strategy to use is thus seen mathematically. Much pressure will be exerted, many actions will be undertaken, much money will flow. There will be strong pressure [compulsion]; the economic pressure is already being felt. Panama's historical friends are being indirectly threatened. As soon as the United States becomes aware that we are negotiating with a country, the United States goes to that country and tells it—and here we have Dr Goodin who manages the economy, and there are several who belong to... [changes thought] such as Gomez, a legislator, who have been on commissions that have negotiated debts or financial matters. The standard answer is: Yes, of course we are on your side; we understand; we will study this, but first, make up with the United States. Make up with the United States. Make up with the United States. That slogan is the label they use so there will be indirect economic pressure.

That is, then, the reality we must look at. Make up with the United States. The slogan is a condition. It is not just a matter of saying: Well, let us try it so there will be one member on the Electoral Tribunal, so there will be four magistrates on the Supreme Court, so that we will give them two ministers—no, no, no. Make up with the United States means: Yield. Yield. [Noriega repeats himself; audience chants: "Not one step backward"] It means yield, soft-pedal the anti-American tone, soft-pedal the anti-imperialist tone. Use other language. Stop consorting with nonaligned countries. Stop shouting at the OAS and the United Nations. That is what making up with the United States amounts to.

This is a reality that links economics with patriotism. The two are not separate. Either one gives up patriotism to solve economic problems, thus yielding and throwing away all the books we learned from and forgetting what we had to learn by force whenever we saw foreign soldiers on our territory; when we saw those who fired blanks at us when we were students at the National Institute and went to pick up mangos [reference to former Canal Zone police chasing Panamanian students away from U.S. Government property].

Tonight I want to thank you for your leadership and patriotism. I want to thank you because you are men and women who, despite pressures, have a great fighting spirit. You know that alone we may be defeated, but united—never! [applause and chants]

Says 'Reason on Our Side'

PA061606 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 6 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Toti Urriola]

[Text] This newspaper yesterday asked General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Defense Forces commander in chief, for his opinion on the latest attacks against our country by some U.S. groups. In an exclusive statement to CRITICA, the general said: "Reason is on our side in this struggle. To the Panamanians, I say: March on, this is just another U.S. aggression against Panama."

In an action journalists have described as unusual, Gen Noriega went without bodyguards to a meeting of San Miguelito District transport, peasant, and women's organizations' leaders with local officials of the National Democratic Union coalition parties. The meeting took place in the Rey Kung Restaurant. Noriega was wearing a beige suit.

Vows Not To Resign

PA061720 Paris AFP in Spanish 1520 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Bogota, 6 Feb (AFP)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the FDP, has said he will continue in his post. He also accused the United States of trying to "discredit the Latin American peoples."

In an interview with Bogota's Radio Todelar network last night, Noriega, accused of drug trafficking by a Miami, Florida, grand jury, emphatically denied the charges of drug dealing and money laundering. He said the U.S. attacks aim to establish a U.S. colony in Panama, adding that "we Panamanians believe in liberation and decolonization." "The drugs are used in the United States, but the United States wants to try to blame the Latin American countries for its own inability to control its society," Noriega said.

"I will not resign," Noriega said, adding that in the next few days he will be touring peasant areas to "inform them of the truth." Noriega described the U.S. charges as part of "a campaign to discredit the Latin American peoples," and he said "this is customary for the Reagan administration." He criticized the fact that U.S. judicial

officials are using as evidence against him the testimony of "two convicts who, to reduce their sentences, allow themselves to be used in a plan aimed at the dignity of a leader solely because he has demanded that his fatherland be respected and that there be an end to the political, economic, and colonialist aggression against Panama."

He said that for the past 18 years, Panama, in coordination with the DEA, has been carrying out a struggle against drug trafficking. "Panama is neither a cocaine producer nor a consumer," he said. "That is the truth, and that is what we want to tell our Colombian and Mexican brothers, who are also being discredited by an organization and by an administration incapable of controlling its own domestic social situation."

Asked by the Radio Todelar reporter to further comment on this "defamatory campaign," Noriega said "it is an attempt to set a precedent so any progressive Latin American leader who does not align himself with the empire will be forced to yield, otherwise he will be tried or be implicated in a lie that will discredit him before the whole world."

The reporter then asked: "Despite those serious charges and that campaign, will you continue as FDP commander?" Noriega replied: "That is right. Our legal system is based on evidence from reliable individuals, not from convicts who are brought out of jail to testify against someone. That is all."

"In short, Gen Noriega, you are telling the Colombians, the world, and the Panamanians that you remain firmly in your post?" the reporter insisted.

"Well, that is what I told you. That is all. Thank you," Noriega replied.

No Wish To Respond to Charges

PA062035 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2002 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 6 Feb (DPA)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP, does not wish to respond to the charges made against him over the past few days, an FDP spokesman said, noting that "the general is engaged in routine activities this weekend." Noriega was indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury in Miami, Florida, accused of protecting Colombian drug traffickers in exchange for millions of dollars. [passage omitted]

Letter to Attorney General

PA071306 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 7 Feb 88 p 1

["Text" of letter from General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the FDP, to Attorney General Carlos Villalaz—issued in Panama City on 5 February]

[Text] Panama City, 5 February 1988

Attorney General Carlos Villalaz

Mr Attorney General:

I have learned through the news media that U.S. Justice Department prosecutors have publicly indicted me for false crimes that are recklessly attributed to me.

I therefore earnestly ask you to open an investigation to determine the origin of and those responsible for these slanderous charges so they will undergo legal proceedings in accordance with the Panamanian penal law.

Attached is a copy of these false charges formulated in the United States by Justice Department officials.

Yours truly,

"Everything for the Fatherland"

General Manuel Antonio Noriega

Commander in Chief of the Defense Forces

Commentary on U.S. 'Farce' Against Noriega

PA051731 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 5 Feb 88 p 1

[Unattributed commentary: "The Fatherland's Hour"]

[Text] In the shameful farce staged by the North Americans to discredit General Manuel Antonio Noriega with the obvious objective of establishing a puppet government that will disregard the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, each of the witnesses so far have had dubious morals.

The action has been locally orchestrated with irresponsible statements by individuals who have not exactly honored their profession and who, in reviving old ambitions for power, appear as common opportunists who want to take advantage of someone they believe has fallen.

If Jose Isabel Blandon had not been removed as head of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, he never would have conceived of a plan to remove Noriega.

If Blandon had not been fired as Panamanian consul in New York, he never would have made the horrible revelations concerning indescribable actions that only a sick mind could conceive of.

If [Gen] Ruben Dario Paredes [retired] had not exchanged the position of commander for the path to the Panamanian presidency, which he thought was securely paved to give him an overwhelming victory in elections under his control, he would have done nothing to correct the acts that he is now charging took place during his command of the military institution.

If Panama had withdrawn from the Contadora Group, our country would not be experiencing any problem, Nicaragua would have been invaded a long time ago, and Noriega and Delvalle would be receiving all the aid that they requested.

We must be very clear at this time. The Panamanian opposition has exchanged temporary political power for all that the gringos might wish, ranging from the military bases to [control of the canal in] perpetuity.

This is the fatherland's hour: the passage from colony to independence, or the defeat of essential moral values in a free fatherland and the return to shackles. Let each person choose his path.

U.S. Asked To End 'Plot' Against Noriega

PA031440 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Station editorial]

[Excerpts] The young Panamanian diplomacy has again confronted the plot put together by a large network of U.S. Congress lobbyists, four public relations firms, the State Department, and the National Security Council.

According to Washington sources, the campaign against Panama has already cost over $40 million. That money has been used to finance local events, to create a central office in Washington, to publish articles in magazines and newspapers, to broadcast reports on the three major U.S. television networks, and to disseminate reports to international press agencies. At the same time, reduced sentences have been offered to convicted drug traffickers if they agree to add fuel to the fire. Jorge Ritter, Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations, described that campaign as anti-Noriega paranoia. Ritter described the most recent U.S. Senate hearings on General Manuel Antonio Noriega as a circus show. These hearings are being used to accuse Gen Noriega of international drug trafficking.

As Ritter said, no other government official or military chief has had more DEA and Interpol recognition for his work than Noriega. These agencies recognized his cooperation in the struggle against drug production, distribution, and use, which can destroy one's brain and personality and can turn drug addicts into thieves.

In fact, a report issued by the U.S. Justice Department said more than 70 percent of serious crime in the 12 largest U.S. cities is linked to drug use. Despite its ample resources, however, the U.S. Government has not solved this problem. On the contrary, it uses it to discredit its shameless interventionism in small, economically fragile countries like ours. [passage omitted]

The millions of dollars used in the plot against Panama do not conceal our truth. For that reason, we must ask the United States to solve its domestic drug problems and to stop discrediting friendly nations and unyielding rulers.

Ambassador to U.S. Interviewed on Situation

PA060034 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Interview with Juan B. Sosa, Panamanian ambassador to the United States, via telephone from Washington, D.C., on 5 February]

[Text] The Panamanian ambassador stated in Washington that all the attacks against Panama are part of a campaign to destabilize the government. Today in Miami, Florida, federal prosecutors announced the indictment of General Manuel Antonio Noriega and 15 others, including civilians and soldiers. In an interview with CBS, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega declared that the federal indictment is a political act aimed at frightening him and other Latin American leaders who dare to criticize the United States. In Washington, Juan B. Sosa, Panamanian ambassador to the United States, stated that all this is a campaign against Panama.

[Begin recording] [Sosa] The Panamanian Government has sent a protest note to the communications media that have participated in the attacks, especially in the last few days. We have publicly stated the position of the Panamanian Government to them.

[Reporter] What is that position, Ambassador?

[Sosa] It is a policy by which we are protesting the intervention in Panama's domestic affairs.

[Reporter] Have you received any notification following the news conference held this morning? Have you received any notification from the U.S. Government?

[Sosa] The U.S. Government has not contacted the embassy. They have, however, made contacts with the Foreign Ministry.

[Reporter] In view of all these events, what is the reaction in diplomatic circles in Washington?

[Sosa] Fortunately, Panama has the support and respect of Latin American countries. The nations that support Panama know perfectly well what lies behind all these actions by the U.S. Administration. [end recording]

Finally, in a telephone interview from Washington, the Panamanian ambassador to the United States reiterated that this is a campaign against Panama.

Ambassadors to U.S., UN, OAS Recalled

PA061919 Paris AFP in Spanish 1840 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 6 Feb (AFP)—A reliable Panamanian Foreign Ministry source today reported that the Panamanian ambassadors to the United States, the OAS, and the United Nations have been recalled for urgent consultations. The source said that this morning, Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia contacted Jorge Ritter, ambassador to the United Nations, Juan B. Sosa, ambassador to the United States, and Roberto Leyton, ambassador to the OAS, and asked them them to come to Panama.

Although details were not provided, the source told AFP the main topic of the consultations will be the state of relations between Panama and the United States over the last 6 months which, according to President Eric Delvalle, are at a "very difficult" moment. With yesterday's indictment of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Defense Forces, by a U.S. Grand Jury, the situation "passes to another phase of necessary and urgent consideration," the source said.

On Friday, the Foreign Ministry rejected the charges against Noriega, describing them as "an attack on its leaders and the Armed Forces." It warned that "it is extremely dangerous to recklessly challenge the patience, tolerance, and good faith of the Panamanian people with campaigns that can produce unforeseeable reactions."

Academies' Students Withdrawn

PA071319 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 7 Feb 88 pp l, 8-A

[Text] Panama withdrew all its students from U.S. military academies on Friday, 5 February.

The decision by the FDP [Panama Defense Forces] General Staff is based on the fact that the "indictment" process is an unfriendly and rigged U.S. action against our country.

After deciding to withdraw the students from U.S. military academies, the General Staff notified the Panamanian military and naval attache in Washington of the measure.

Diaz Herrera Urges Noriega Response to Charges

PA061941 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Panamanian Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera has stated that General Manuel Antonio Noriega should respond to the U.S. indictment against him on charges of assisting drug traffickers. Last year, Col Diaz Herrera made serious charges against Gen Noriega, the commander of the Panamanian Defense Forces.

Col Diaz Herrera now lives in Caracas after rebelling against Noriega in mid-1987. After making public accusations against Noriega, Col Diaz Herrera was arrested and then released in December, when he joined his Venezuelan wife in Caracas. Diaz Herrera spoke to the press today concerning Gen Noriega's indictment by a Miami grand jury for alleged involvement with drug traffickers.

[Begin Diaz Herrera recording] I had personally doubted that Noriega was involved in drug trafficking. However, I am surprised that the charges are accompanied by so much evidence: 30 pages of files. What I am saying is that he should respond to them. He should say that he is innocent and then prove it. He should do what I did not have the opportunity to do; in other words, he should get his lawyer to defend him and to show Panama and the world that he is not a drug trafficker. [end recording]

Reiterates Charges

PA070105 Paris AFP in Spanish 2350 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Caracas, 6 Feb (AFP)—Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, former deputy of Panama's strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega, told the Venezuelan press today that Noriega was involved in the plot to kill General Omar Torrijos and the murder of former Education Minister Hugo Spadafora. [title as received]

Diaz Herrera, who started the Panamanian crisis in mid-1987 by accusing Noriega and wound up being tried for it, was pardoned in December and left for Venezuela to be with his Venezuelan wife and children. Since then he has been absolutely silent on the Panamanian situation. However, Noriega's indictment by a U.S. Grand Jury for drug trafficking made him break his silence.

Torrijos, who died in a helicopter accident, and Spadafora, who was found beheaded near the Costa Rican border, were recalled by Diaz Herrera, who also reiterated the accusation that Noriega promoted election fraud in 1984 "to help the candidate backed by the military, Nicolas Ardito Barletta."

The Caracas newspaper EL NACIONAL asked him why he had retracted his accusations. He replied that his wife had asked him "to accept everything the government said to protect the family." Diaz Herrera said he does not believe Noriega will appear before the U.S. Grand Jury "and will continue to deceive the people with a pseudonationalist line."

Former U.S. Envoy Issues Appeal to Military

PA052231 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1849 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Statement by Gabriel Lewis Galindo, former ambassador to the United States, via telephone from Miami, Florida—live or recorded]

[Text] I wish to address the Panamanian people, through Radio KW Continente, to advise them [word indistinct] what is currently happening in Miami.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega has been indicted for crimes that I believe are against humanity. He has been accused of bringing into the United States more than 4,000 pounds of cocaine worth millions of dollars, millions of dollars [repeats himself]. He has brought this into the United States to poison the youth of that country and to corrupt the foundation of that society. I believe that as of this moment, we should stop calling him Gen Noriega and instead refer to him as Noriega the fugitive. Noriega has entered the Hall of Fame of the world's criminals, and he will have a special seat to the left of Al Capone.

Gentlemen, I would like to address the members of the Panama Defense Forces whom I have known for many years. I wish to ask them to carry out their duty. Their duty is to support the Panamanian people; their duty is to do what their consciences tell them. Their consciences cannot tell them that they must obey the orders of a gangster.

Gentlemen, no one has indicted the majors of the Defense Forces who are known for their patriotic zeal, colonels who are known for their dignity, and captains who have distinguished themselves as Panamanian heroes. I will issue an appeal, and I will begin with the rank of major: [Miguel] Aleman, you are not involved in anything; do not obey a superior who discredits the motherland. [Humberto] Correa, Correa [repeats himself], you dignify the corps to which you belong. [Ricardo] Reyes Dutari, I have known you since you were a second lieutenant; you have been an exemplary officer. Daniel Delgado, your talent is superior to that of your commander. Do not put your talent at the service of gorillas who discredit the uniform. [Guy] de Puy, you are a serious man. [Armando Palacios] Gondola, you are an example of a respected professional military officer; we all know who the bandits are. You, Gondola, are on the list of those people respected by Panamanians like me, and that is what should matter. I issue an appeal to Major [Fernando] Quezada, Major Quezada [repeats himself], a man whom I respect. I issue an appeal to [Aristides] Valdonedo; I issue an appeal to White; and I issue an appeal to many others whose names I do not know because I do not have the list of their names here. They are equally honest, and they represent an example of the professional military officer.

I issue an appeal to colonels like Eduardo Herrera, [Ricardo] Baribaldo, [Roberto] Armijo. I issue an appeal to Alfredo Remon. I issue an appeal to [Jose Santos] Sandy Motta. I issue an appeal to [Guillermo] Wong. Wong is an example of the correct military officer. Gentlemen, it has always been said that military officers must obey orders, but this does not mean obeying orders that are contrary to the interests of the homeland. Gentlemen, if you do not heed this appeal, if you do not pay attention to this appeal, if Colonels [Elias] Castillo, [Bernardo] Barrera, [Leonidas] Macias, [Marcos] Justines, and Angel Mina do not heed my appeal as a friend to join the good Panamanians, then they will face the same fate as the man who is destined to disappear from the ranks of the Defense Forces. This, gentlemen, is because from now on no military officer in the world will respect Noriega.

Gentlemen, this is not a political issue. The U.S. judicial ruling is beyond doubt; it is beyond doubt because in this great country [the United States], even presidents, vice presidents, and senators have been brought to trial. No one enjoys privileges here; the law is enforced alike for everyone. Therefore, no one in this civilized world who has daily contact with the United States, Europe, or Asia can rightfully claim that U.S. justice can be influenced by political decisions in the White House, the Pentagon, or the U.S. Senate. The fact is that Gen Noriega has corrupted the foundations of Panama's society, and that he has deceived you—because you are not living under a democracy. You are living under a dictatorship in which this man is above the law and above all of you—whom he despises. This man is only motivated by his lust for money. This man has appointed to the Supreme Court a woman who cannot even work as a traffic court judge, and who is a disgrace to those who are professional lawyers.

Gentlemen, I wish to add this: I ask public employees to join the National Civic Crusade, which has embarked on a campaign to recover the nation's moral values. Gentlemen, I appeal to the Catholic Church, which has to assume a much more aggressive role from now on, because there are no more doubts—nothing. Msgr McGrath, you must lead the church and support the people, or else one day you will have to answer for this to the parishioners who today implicitly trust you. I want to tell the Panamanian people that I have been fighting in the trenches for the last 8 months, and that I will continue to do so, because—to be frank—I want my children and grandchildren to live in Panama like any human being should live: respecting others and being respected in turn. Gentlemen, support any movement for disobedience, because we will not resort to violence. We count on the support of honest officers and public employees to put an end to this corrupt tyranny in a few days, because it has no precedent in the history of Latin America.

Paredes' Son To Go to Florida To Fight Charges

PA080100 Paris AFP in Spanish 2129 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Panama, 7 Feb (AFP)—Retired General Ruben Dario Paredes' son, mentioned by a Miami grand jury in connection with the indictment against Panama's strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega, said he will travel to Florida to prove he is innocent.

Ahmed Paredes told journalists that since his father's retirement as chief of the Defense Forces, "I have had no contact, links, or conversations with Manuel Antonio Noriega." He added that the accusations against him are a result of his father's staunch "anti-Noriega stand," and

"is a gambit on the part of antidrug agents paid by Noriega to discredit my father and me by fabricating false situations and transmitting lies by means of false witnesses or by bribing Floridian authorities."

Meanwhile, Major Cleto Hernandez of the Panama Defense Forces is suing Ruben Dario Paredes for slander. During an interview on Radio KW Continente, Paredes had charged Hernandez with having ordered the execution of his eldest son, Ruben. The killing was carried out by the drug traffickers' mafia in the city of Medellin, Colombia, in 1986. In his nearly 1-hour-long radio broadcast last week, Paredes accused Maj Hernandez of following Gen Noriega's instructions in his son's murder, but said he "lacked evidence."

Radio Stations Violating Law Set for Closing
PA051940 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 5 Feb 88 pp 48, 20

[Report by Antonio Graell Flores]

[Text] Article No 4 of Decree No 200, issued on 23 November 1982, published in the Official Gazette on Thursday, 25 November 1982, reads: "Broadcast of telephone calls is prohibited, regardless of who the interested party may be."

This decree, which is currently in force, empowers the government and Justice Ministry to declare the termination or cancellation of the concessions granted, as the case may be.

In another of its articles, the decree establishes that the use of a newscast to broadcast commentaries involving obviously false or biased news—even though such reports may be attributed to an individual—to broadcast obscene phrases or words, or statements that in any way disrupt public morals; or to broadcast expressions that show disrespect or contempt toward people will be a reason to terminate or to cancel the granted concession.

This measure could be adopted ex officio, or at the request of the directly affected individual.

Finally, the decree states that "it corresponds to the executive branch, through the government and Justice Ministry, to impose through resolutions the corresponding penalties for the violations or infractions of this decree.

Radio Continente Closed
PA060400 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0254 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Legislator Omaira Correa told ACAN-EFE that today the government and Justice Ministry canceled the transmission frequency of opposition radio station "Continente." However, the ministry did not give any explanation for this action.

Correa, newswoman and sister of the station's owner, said that "four armed individuals" came into the "Continente" studios here in Panama City. She said that they brought a resolution allegedly signed by government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari. She added: "The Ministry's officials refused to hand over a copy of the order to the news team working at that moment. However, they said that the measure was adopted because of remarks made against the country's economy by newsman Bosco Vallarino. During "The Word" news program, Vallarino asked citizens not to deposit their savings in two state-owned banks, including the National Bank, Omaira Correa noted.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, "Continente" aired statements from the United States by Jose Blandon, former Panamanian consul in New York. Blandon accused General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], of involvement in international drug trafficking.

The station also aired remarks by General Ruben Dario Paredes, Noriega's predecessor in the FDP. Paredes affirmed that Noriega "was a prisoner of power, of his boundless ambitions, of his drug trafficking network, and of his conspirators." Paredes also linked Noriega to the death of an alleged drug trafficker. The opposition radio station today rebroadcast reports on the indictment by a Miami grand jury of Panamanian civilian and military officials, including Noriega.

"Continente" remained closed from 7 June 1987 to 3 February 1988. It reopened after Eric Arturo Delvalle's administration declared an amnesty late last December.

Correa noted that the government's action "is not only an act of persecution against a business trying to conduct independent journalism but it is also an act directed against me because of my independent stances. I am tirelessly struggling for the democratization of my country and for morality in the officials who hold power in Panama."

Official Orders EXTRA Editor Arrested
PA051644 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 5 Feb 88 p 22

[Text] First District Attorney Elvira Pinzon yesterday commissioned a court official to arrest EXTRA Editor Cristobal Sarmiento, thus ignoring the Amnesty Law approved last year by the Legislative Assembly.

Indeed, yesterday morning an official from the First District Court went to Sarmiento's residence. The official had order No 1384 with him, which was addressed to Lieutenant Colonel Eric Aguilera, ordering the arrest of the editor of this newspaper. The arrest warrant was signed by Rosa Elvira Pinzon, and was dated 14 July 1987. A seal reading: "Urgent," was stamped on the arrest warrant.

Judge Clara Madariaga De Leon, applying the General Amnesty Law issued by the Legislative Assembly, had dismissed the lawsuit against Cristobal Sarmiento, who had been charged with actions against the security of the national economy.

EL SIGLO Employees Barred From Building

PA080112 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0025 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 7 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian policemen today prevented employees of the opposition EL SIGLO newspaper from entering the building by orders of the Attorney General's Office.

One of the policemen guarding the building told ACAN that they had orders to prevent the employees from entering the building because the Attorney General's Office was "investigating."

The officer, who asked not to be identified, refused to say what was being investigated and said that the authorities had not ordered EL SIGLO closed, a rumor that has been spreading in this capital since Saturday.

A journalist from the opposition newspaper, who asked not to be identified, told ACAN that once the Attorney General's Office has concluded its investigation, it could close the newspaper on charges of "libel and slander." [passage omitted]

Civilians Fire on Demonstrators in Samaria

PA051857 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1826 GMT 5 Feb 88

["Heightening Awareness" program of Christian Democratic Legislator Carlos Arellano Lennox—monitored in progress]

[Excerpt] ...four or five began shooting. We have the report right here: They got out of a car that had no license plates. Can you imagine this? The curious thing is that this occurred in Samaria neighborhood. Is this another oligarch neighborhood? I understood that Samaria is a poor neighborhood. Look how the oligarch neighborhoods have spread! People were demonstrating on First Street in Samaria and a group of four or five civilians got out of a car that had no license plates and opened fire to intimidate the demonstrators. Well, oligarchs of Samaria, forward with your white handkerchiefs! [Symbolic of the Civilian Crusade]

I want to take this opportunity to state on this program that the struggle must be peaceful. We cannot enter into the realm of violence because we do not know how to do this. I say this especially to the young people. [passage omitted]

Police Increase 'Vigilance' in Capital

PA060116 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2322 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Increased police vigilance was observed in Panama City following reports of the indictment of General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Members of the so-called Dobermans were posted in areas of heavy traffic such as 50th Street, Porras Park, Via Espana, and others. Large groups of Panamanians gathered along 50th Street at noon and shouted slogans demanding justice, democracy, and liberty.

Defense Forces units in combat gear intervened several times to disperse the demonstrators from 50th Street, where large groups had gathered. There were no arrests or violent incidents, although the antiriot units and the demonstrators nearly clashed several times. A tense calm prevailed in the capital today while Defense Forces units wearing combat gear continue their strict vigilance in several areas of the capital.

Military 'Deployment' Scored

PA060210 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0037 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian civic opposition leaders today protested the deployment of police and military units throughout this capital under Defense Forces instructions. The orders were issued following the announcement that General Manuel Antonio Noriega had been indicted by a court in the United States.

Business leader Gilbert Mallol, one of the six opposition leaders who decided to exile himself, returned to the country 1 week ago after the government decreed an amnesty. He said the strong military presence in the capital shows that the population is under the control of a "narco-criminal."

Mallol added that Gen Noriega has the troops under his personal orders "to defend his personal interests."

A grand jury in Miami decided to bring the Panamanian military officer to trial for blackmail and alleged cooperation in international drug trafficking.

Likewise, Rafael Zuniga, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture in Panama, said the Defense Forces may be guarding the main streets in Panama City but "the people have every right to participate in a demonstration, and they demand a decent country."

Meanwhile, Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra, former president of the National Council of Private Enterprise and coordinator of the National Civic Crusade, asserted that "Panama is a country under siege by its own Defense Forces."

Gonzalez de la Lastra, who was arrested Monday and accused of crimes against the state's image and economy, was released on bail 24 hours later. He said the Defense Forces have become an internal occupation army, "with the sole intention of defending the government [quotation marks as received].

Bethancourt Expresses Support for Noriega

PA060322 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0138 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Dinner speech by Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, at the Rey Kung Restaurant in Panama City—live]

[Text] Good evening, companeras and companeros:

I simply want to convey the revolutionary greetings of the Democratic Revolutionary Party's National Executive Committee to all the companeras and companeros present here during this Torrijist reorganization dinner. I also bring fraternal greetings to all the representatives of the fraternal political parties, special guests, and high-ranking party officials and others who are not members of our party but who are with us tonight.

As we all know, this is a serious hour for our country. The fact that a dinner like this is held today with such strong and courageous feelings demonstrates our party's fighting spirit. We will not be intimidated by the false charges made by the imperialists against our country, against our government, and particularly against General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

We will answer those charges today as we have done in the past, as we have been doing since the sedition began: Not one step backward. [applause] All of us who are present here come from the school of a harsh anti-imperialist struggle, which characterizes the Torrijist philosophy. Our chief, who is our inspiration today—Omar Torrijos Herrera—brandished that banner without hesitation. All sorts of accusations were also raised against him. The Senate also secretly tried him for alleged narcotics trafficking. All sorts of slanderous charges were also raised against him. None of this broke his firm will, which was accompanied by the deep anti-imperialist sentiment of our people. He crushed all the obstacles the imperialists placed in his path to hinder our fatherland's progress toward absolute sovereignty.

Fortunately, after Torrijos died, and after many errors were made, our companero, Manuel Antonio Noriega, is now brandishing the Torrijist banner as commander in chief. They thought Noriega was a man who surrenders easily; they speculated there was a schism within the Panama Defense Forces. They thought he would flee like Duvalier or Ferdinand Marcos did, as they had planned in those countries. However, at this stage of events, they are pulling at their hair, because they see how they have driven their own country to the height of ridicule with this latest trial; and yet, within our fatherland, the Panamanian people are calm in the face of the false charges and remain proud, ready to crush any attempt, any movement to make our fatherland return to the situation it was in prior to 1968.

Under these conditions, we—at this dinner, as Torrijists—we raise the banner high and tell Manuel Antonio Noriega: Forward, with that same firm attitude. We support you. We will not take one step backward. We will wait for the year 2000, when the United States, its troops, and military bases will get out—by George, they will get out! Thank you. [applause]

UNADE Resolution Backs Noriega, Delvalle

PA051712 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 4 Feb 88 p 9

[Resolution issued by National Democratic Union, UNADE; date, place not given]

[Text] Whereas:

1. The attacks against His Excellency President Eric Arturo Delvalle, his administration, and the democratic institutions have increased;

2. The attacks against General Manuel Antonio Noriega and the General Staff and officers of the Defense Forces have also increased;

3. The economy and constitutional system of our nation continue to be under tremendous attack, despite the government's steps to pardon crimes and to reopen the news media;

4. These attacks are part of a strategy aimed at preventing the return of the canal in 2000, justifying the permanence of military bases and the seizure of power through a coup d'etat employing a civic disguise.

It is resolved:

1. To reiterate to His Excellency President Delvalle our unshakeable decision to support him and his administration.

2. To reiterate to Gen Noriega and to the Defense Forces General Staff, officers, and noncommissioned officers our respect for, support for, and confidence in all of them and in the professionalism of the institution.

3. To reassert to our fellow party members our determination to remain united and strong against the imperialist onslaught and the betrayal by bad Panamanians.

4. To reiterate to all Panamanians once more that the resignation of Gen Noriega and his General Staff is not negotiable, and that the democratization of the nation is a Panamanian problem that will be solved by us Panamanians without foreign meddling.

5. To warn our adversaries that the only way to attain power is through the expression of the people's will at the polls.

Romulo Escobar Bethancourt for the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

Jose Bernardo Cardenas for the Republican Party.

Rodolfo Chiari de Leon for the Liberal Party.

Juan Medrano for the Labor Party.

Luis Gaspar Suarez Sierra for the Panamenist Party.

Esquivel 'Willing' To Assume Presidency

PA051835 Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish
4-11 Feb 88 p 16

[Article by Isis Nix]

[Text] Dr Roderick Esquivel, Panamanian vice president, told QUIUBO he is willing to assume the office of the president of the Republic should President Delvalle resign. Esquivel added he "might" remove Commander Noriega. He admitted, however, that he does not have "the slightest idea" whether Delvalle plans to resign. He flatly described Delvalle's actions during the months of crisis thus: "Simply, Delvalle has not acted as president."

He said: "I don't think Delvalle has made a single decision or strengthened the civilian government's image. I don't think he has upheld the president's authority when dealing with the country's problems. Finally, I don't think he has demonstrated the leadership that would have made the people trust him."

Apart from the government's current policy or philosophy, Esquivel described how he would assume the office of president, considering he is an "isolated" vice president at present. He said: I would assume office as president as long as I could sign my name because the Constitution has a number of provisions for me to assume the post legally." He pointed out, however, that to prevent this it would be necessary to amend the Constitution or for him to "cease to exist."

With a concise "maybe," Esquivel referred to the possibility of removing the current Defense Forces commander and his staff to purge the institution. He added that in his government the Armed Forces would be genuine Defense Forces "committed to keeping the country secure."

"I mean no disrespect to the Defense Forces. I must keep the pledge made to the people during the 1984 elections. Now I understand that, because this hope has been frustrated, we must reassure the people. We must guarantee a government for all Panamanians, a government that enjoys the trust and respect of those at home and that elicits the admiration of those abroad."

Taking into consideration the power that the Defense Forces wield in Panama, it would be difficult to implement the changes that Esquivel proposes. Such changes presuppose "a government with the greatest possible national unity" to take care of all of the nation's problems, from housing programs to the operation of communications media.

Regarding the repression that the Defense Forces have undoubtedly committed, as in the case of Mr Anguizola, manager of the Bank of America, Esquivel said that "it should not take place in our country" because such practices put us at the level of countries such as Uganda, where some people behave in a psychopathic way. Esquivel admitted he does not know the details of the Anguizola case. However, he recommended Defense Forces officers act in a professional and stable fashion so the people may trust them.

He also regretted the negative image the Defense Forces have internationally. He noted: "As vice president I feel I could have some responsibilities." He says, however his government post does not give him the authority to assume responsibilities. "I would have responsibilities only if, as vice president under the Constitution, I become responsible for directing the government, and the government includes the Defense Forces."

Dr Esquivel admitted that at this moment he does not participate in government decisionmaking activities and is not adequately informed on what the government will do. He said: "I definitely do not have any contact with the government." However he keeps lines of communication open to keep himself informed. He does not know how long he will remain "isolated."

He said: "Of all the politicians it is I who have the most to lose. My isolation in voluntary. I cannot participate in things with which I do not agree. I did not go into politics to get rich but to contribute to a transition effort and to avoid violence in Panama."

In realizing that the so-called transition was not working, Esquivel made a decision that is his responsibility: to voluntarily exclude himself from the Delvalle administration.

Opposition Leader Calls Delvalle 'Scared'

PA062200 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish
1 Feb 88 p 2

[Interview with Christian Democratic Party President Ricardo Arias Calderon by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given]

[Text] [Question] According to the Blandon plan, would it be acceptable for Noriega to leave while other Defense Forces officers remain?

[Arias] I believe Noriega cannot be seen as an isolated figure. There is a group of officers that is close to him, and not because of rank, because rank is of no consideration in that group. That group is composed of 6 or 12 officers; I do not know how many, because I do not know the inside story. These officers share grave responsibilities with Noriega in connection with the charges that have been leveled. It is clear that this small group, these accomplices, cannot remain in the Defense Forces under current conditions. Second, I believe that to rebuild the officer corps in an absolutely normal manner, all officers who have served for more than 25 years must retire. In addition, it must be clearly understood that the Defense Forces must play a new role in Panama: professionals under civilian control, not politicians above civilian control.

[Question] What is preventing Delvalle from annulling the decree [not further identified]?

[Arias] It is very difficult to analyze that. I would say there are two reasons. One, fear. He is a scared president, and a scared president cannot even warm his own chair. But he is not only a scared president, he is also a self-interested president. It is clear that his role as president is part of an effort to protect his economic interests; for example, his interests in the sugar industry. It is also a fact that every time there is an opening in the government he fills it with people from his own party, disregarding any understanding he may have with those of the Democratic National Union. I have noticed he is a scared president who is satisfying his own interests during this situation.

The civic movement and the democratic opposition do not want violence, which may enable Delvalle to annul that decree. What is keeping Delvalle from expanding his pardon to help all the people who cannot now return to the country? While his responsibilities are not on the same level as those of Noriega, Delvalle is increasingly sharing responsibilities with the general. The country can hardly see it any other way.

Civic Crusade Leaders on Plans for Strike

PA041824 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 88 p 1

[Article by Jose Quintero De Leon: "The Crusade Will Call a National Strike"]

[Excerpt] After the businessmen's associations decided to intensify their pressure to force the national government to seek a solution to the crisis, the National Civic Crusade [CCN] announced that it will soon call a national strike.

Alberto Boyd Jr., president of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP), told LA PRENSA that at noon yesterday the leaders of the 29 associations that make up CONEP agreed to stage a nationwide strike on a date to be determined later.

Boyd said this delicate decision was made due to the country's deterioration, the continuation of repression, and the fact that the government is not interested in taking steps to seek a solution to the problem.

"As an important sector of the Panamanian people, we are going to contribute our share to seeing how we can find or how we can provoke a solution to the situation."

According to Boyd, this time the strike will be staged not only by the businessmen but by all the country's sectors nationwide.

Asked about the intimidating and offensive slogans that appeared painted in many sectors of the capital yesterday, Boyd said he does not know who is responsible for them and he added that they were not done by the CCN. Nevertheless, he said that this type of action creates expectations which are not the type sought by the CCN which advocates peaceful actions.

Aurelio Barria, reelected president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, said that today there is greater awareness in the country about the current situation and that there is much expectation about what might take place in the next few hours.

"The associations have been called to a great nationwide paralyzation of all activities," he said, adding that "the country belongs to all of us and we all have a responsibility to its future."

Without naming names, Barria said that a high-ranking church prelate had disclosed to him that he had information indicating that there are plans for a fake coup d'etat and for the organization of progovernment mobs to provoke the CCN and to lead to a new military siege [cerco militar].

In this regard, Barria asked everyone to keep calm and to verify any information they receive because there are many rumors in the streets which could [cause the sitution to] degenerate to bloodshed.

Nevertheless, he reiterated that "we cannot afford the luxury of new exiles or new abuses because we are convinced that the country must not continue to be governed by those who misgovern us."

In view of the imminence of a new national strike, a workers' leader said that the call to strike should also include the working class, because we Panamanians are the ones who must resolve the current problem and not permit the North Americans to resolve it because then they would impose the government they want.

The bank employees, represented by Juan Vanegas, also promised to join the strike. The doctors, represented by Dr Ricardo Velasquez, said that in these difficult

moments for the country, the religious leaders of all denominations should be urged to join the CCN in the search for the peace that the country so dearly needs. [passage omitted]

Minister on 1989 Elections' Importance
PA030457 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Panama's political situation is not to blame for deteriorating Panamanian-U.S. relations, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias has stated. Abadia attributes deteriorating relations to Panama's independent attitude in its international relations, which has subjected the country to an unjust economic punishment that is condemned by the United Nations.

[Begin Abadia recording] I believe the political solution lies in the 1989 elections. We feel the 1989 elections, not a de facto government or a junta, will be the true solution for all Panamanians. The constitutional order must not be disrupted in any way or for any reason. Let us wait for the 1989 elections, when the Panamanian people vote for the president of all Panamanians. [end recording]

Lawyer Proposes New Plan to President
PA071338 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 3 Feb 88 p 18

[Text] Lawyer Juan Materno Vasquez yesterday delivered to the Presidency a document that could be called the "Materno Vasquez Plan." Some of the points included in this document are as follows: the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] leaders should be prohibited from making public statements and from giving their opinion on political matters, they should not attend Cabinet and State Council meetings, and they should ask President Delvalle for permission whenever they wish to travel outside Panama.

The proposal includes the creation of a "citizens junta" composed of Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath and the rectors of the country's three universities, Materno Vasquez told EL SIGLO. The proposal is intended to overcome the country's political crisis and guarantee "a painless evolution toward democracy."

Once the citizens junta is created, both sides to the struggle—the National Civic Crusade and the government—would suspend their political activities, because the junta would draft a national agreement that would include a restructuring of the Electoral Tribunal, the elimination of "phantom employees" from the government payroll, compliance with Law No 20 regarding retirements and promotions within the FDP, and the retirement or dismissal of Supreme Court justices.

Moreover, the "Materno Vasquez Plan" states that every high-level public employee, including the FDP commander, must submit at the beginning and end of his term a sworn statement of his assets as stated in Article 299 of the Constitution.

Materno Vasquez's plan also rejects the National Civic Crusade's proposal to dismiss the FDP leadership, to create a government junta, and to repeal the electoral laws for the 1989 elections.

Legislator on Nation's Economic Situation
PA050417 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Feb 88 p 1-A

[Article by Jose Quintero De Leon: "Economic Crisis Will Be Serious in March"]

[Text] Panamanian Legislator Jorge Ruben Rosas, vice president of MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] told LA PRENSA the country is on the verge of economic collapse and it will face a bad situation in March because the state has nowhere else to turn. It will be able to maintain neither fiscal expenses nor the excessive bureaucracy. Rosas added that we must take into account the fact that the recession will reduce anticipated 1988 revenues, an essential factor in maintaining state expenditures.

Assessing the country's economic situation, Rosas said: "I reject the thesis that the state's economic, fiscal, and financial situation as well as the profound crisis we are facing are caused by the political situation and the civic agitation we have been experiencing."

Rosas said that under the present circumstances, the president should act in accordance with the Fiscal Code and the Planning and Budget Ministry and the comptroller general must prepare a plan for spending cuts and present it to the cabinet.

Rosas, who is closely following the budget problem in the legislature, told LA PRENSA that the measures he mentioned are usually taken when there are insufficient funds to cover expenses.

Rosas stated that for the last few years the national budget has been financed with loans, but because loans were not granted to Panama in 1987, we now have an enormous deficit.

Rosas added there is a large overdraft at the National Bank of Panama and that the suppliers account has been mounting, to the point where the actual amount is unknown. In addition, as if that were not enough, the interest on the foreign debt has not been fully serviced.

Legislator Rosas said: "This breach in the national financial system demands a reduction in public spending." That is the reason the Legislative Assembly did not approve the 1988 budget: the absolute imbalance, which involves hundreds of millions of balboas.

Rosas said that revenues only exist on paper, because Panama cannot request more loans since it exceeded its credit limit and cannot meet its obligations.

Rosas said the executive branch has to reduce public spending, redistribute appropriations, and match expenses to real revenues, applying them to essential needs and investments without neglecting the maintenance of public services.

Rosas said: "To do that, the government needs support, but as far as I can see important government sectors are not willing to give that support. In fact those sectors oppose these measures, because they are not willing to sacrifice the political privileges [espacio politico] they enjoy."

In answer to questions on what changes are to be made, Rosas said he does not favor the dismissal of thousands of honest public employees. He believes "sinecures" must be eliminated and waste should be avoided.

Rosas stated that he has previously recommended measures that should have been adopted a long time ago. For example, he said that merging the 45 decentralized, independent institutions, which are a burden on the treasury, would save the government large amounts of money.

From Rosas' viewpoint, the foreign service has had cases where considerable sums of money have been squandered through laziness; sums that could be used in other ways. "These are the rationalization and austerity measures that should be adopted," Rosas said. But he added "the government has no intention of doing so."

He contends that it is false that the government's financial situation has become worse year after year because of the administrative disorder during the last few years or because of excessive public spending and unchecked borrowing, without taking advantage of the credits obtained from those excessive loans.

Rosas said that back in 1984 there was a very serious deficit, public spending was uncontrolled, and the public debt could not be paid with the regular income. Today the debt is nearly 5 billion balboas (over 4.9 billion balboas) and it cannot be serviced. In 1987 there were no debt repayments and the interest was just barely paid, with some exceptions, such as last quarter's, which was deferred until the first quarter of 1988.

Rosas said this is when responsible officers should start saying that the payroll will not be met during the next few months. Thus, during the first quarter in 1988, we will have a very serious situation because the government will be unable to cancel the interest. It will default, which would be very serious for the country, because Panama has Latin America's largest banking center, and it will be unable to honor its obligations.

Politically, Panama is unquestionably experiencing a political crisis because of the continuous meddling by the Defense Forces in party politics and the control it exercises over the civilian government.

Rosas said: "Panama has to find a way out so it can adopt more in-depth measures to solve the country's political, economic, financial, social, and moral problems."

MOLIRENA's Ford on Internal Situation

PA051606 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, MOLIRENA, leader Guillermo Ford says the time has come for great decisions and for setting aside attitudes that foster confrontations which we will later deplore.

[Begin Ford recording] I personally believe the time for great decisions has come and that the necessary wisdom and sensibility should prevail. We must understand the need to solve this crisis peacefully instead of seeking confrontations that would sadden the Panamanian family.[end recording]

Referring to the recent arrests of business leaders, Mr Ford said:

[Begin recording] These arrests will only strengthen the unity of all the Panamanians who share the same goal of attaining a peaceful transition that will finally lead Panama toward freedom, democracy, and decency.[end recording]

Labor Leader Calls for Working Class Unity

PA040224 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 1 Feb 88 pp 1, 17

[Article by Carlos J. Nunez]

[Text] Rolando Ordonez, leader of CONATO [National Council of Organized Workers], has told CRITICA that this is a crucial moment for the Panamanian people, especially for the unionized working class. We either unite and face the escalation staged by the oligarchy and U.S. imperialism, or we lose everything we have achieved, he added.

Moved by the firm speech by Mauro Murillo, leader of INTEL [National Institute of Telecommunications], Ordonez said: "We know that only unifying and organizing all Panamanians who wish to defend national

sovereignty and Panamanian peace, and those who wish to participate, will prevent the groups desperate for political power from leading us into total chaos."

Ordonez said , "if the military is aware of the threat posed by the oligarchic groups uniting with the U.S. congressmen against the Panamanian people, then we must seek bridges to all union workers with the military to defend the fatherland."

We cannot delay defending the current labor code, eliminating the laws that go against it, searching for a national program to build the people's salvation, and immediately forming the nationalist neighborhood committees. "If we relax, the oligarchy is going to collect on a bill it has been saving since the present labor code was issued in 1971, and the imperialist gringos will reduce the Torrijos-Carter Treaties to ashes," Ordonez concluded.

Editorial on Opposition Leaders' Return
PA031348 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 31 Jan 88 p 4-A

[Editorial]

[Text] They thought they had anticipated every detail. Used to the precision of their cash registers, which produce the millions of dollars—they do not even say balboas—they use to buy consciences and hire the services of influential people, they felt sure this would be the apotheosis or grand finale of the "coup" they had been announcing abroad.

This is why they arrived ready to form a government junta, which would hold absolute power to chain the people, abolish labor laws, and remove the nation's president, the ministers, the managers of autonomous institutions, the Defense Forces commanders, and even the magistrates and legislators. They even brought with them three made-in-U.S.A. [preceding phrase published in English] "presidential ribbons" that they planned to don in front of the Chamber of Commerce building, which symbolizes their economic power;, and in front of the white rags they themselves had paid for and distributed among their partners, relatives, and employees.

Nevertheless, barely 500 onlookers welcomed them instead of the 150,000 joyous members of their imaginary 150 business enterprises who were scheduled to cheer them at Omar Torrijos Airport. Also, instead of the 200,000 demonstrators who supposedly were to cram Porras Plaza and its vicinity, only 2,000 people holding a white rag in each hand responded to the costly appeals they had made through nearly all the social communications media for more than 2 weeks with the assistance of the opposition parties. Nearly 200,000 little sticks with their small white rags were left in the stores and rooms of the Chamber of Commerce!

This is why they started to cry when they left the airport. It was not because of the emotion of returning to their homeland. Those tears were caused by the distress of failure. They cried because they had let themselves be deceived. They cried because, even with their millions and the political and economic might of the great power that protects their business enterprises, they had not been able to rally even the minimum essential support for a legislative candidate.

There is no doubt that everything had been carefully orchestrated within their entrepreneurial concept of mental and commercial servants. The newspapers at the service of money and imperialist arrogance had headlined all the libels and slanders they could possibly concoct.

The conservative influence of the petty Yankee politicians had succeeded in making some criminals—who had been convicted, had confessed their crimes, and had been sentenced for the most hideous crimes—let themselves be bribed with the promise of "special treatment" so these criminals could make slanderous and vicious remarks against top civilian and military leaders of the Panamanian revolutionary process. Well-known criminals were used, as if they were virtuous virgins, to libel and slander even government officials whose achievements had previously been acknowledged by the uppermost U.S. authorities.

The orchestration included the grandiose remarks of a former Defense Forces officer who had scornfully been laid aside by the opposition and Civilian Crusade members themselves. This officer was also made to appear not only resplendent with civilian and social virtues, but endowed with a superior statesman's ability to propose political solutions for all the country's troubles.

Those who fled justice and repeatedly refused to accept the generous pardon the government offered them, decided to return to their homeland on this basis, which they interpreted to mean the financial, political, and logistics support of the greatest world power. But they did not return as repentant citizens, willing to abide by the Constitution and bylaws and work so all of us could also work in peace and security. They returned because they blindly thought this orchestration ensured their securing power and the government. They had planned to exert this power absolutely, Nazi-style, protected by the foreign colonial domination over the restored Canal Zone and the rest of the national territory.

It was precisely this presumptuous arrogance and boundless ambition that ruined their plans. The idea of a dozen businessmen appointing themselves dictators with all executive, legislative, and judicial powers, including that of selecting future presidents and legislators, thus riding roughshod over even the political parties that had helped them, destroyed the harmony they had relied on.

This is why the great majority of Arnulfo Arias' party, the only one in the opposition with a sizable number of members, refused to heed the Crusade's call. So did most of the other organizations, although they had been promised that the Christian Democratic Party's Vallarino and the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement's Barria would become the two principal members of the proposed government junta.

This is also why the U.S.-made presidential ribbons stayed in the suitcases of the self-exiled businessmen. This is why disappointment made them shed tears. For this reason, they could not give the impression they had the support to elect a legislator even if they multiplied the number of white rags by four. So more than 200,000 sticks with white rags remained stored at the Chamber of Commerce, which would have become the new presidential palace.

To finally do away with the conceited arrogance of the businessmen who meekly submitted to foreign colonial rule, the spokesmen of the country's great labor organizations made strong anti-Crusade and anti-imperialist statements.

With the shout of "Imperialism and oligarchy are the same filth," the labor union leaders, who met in Chitre, strongly reiterated their firm support for the revolution's social and economic achievements, the nationalist efforts of the Torrijist process, and the peace and security we have succeeded in maintaining in a region plagued by war. Above all else, the leaders reiterated their active repudiation of the foreign colonial interference and political corruption that have always marked the business organizations as instruments of party politics.

This was the people's genuine voice. This is the voice of a people who have firmly refused to serve as an instrument of the oligarchy of white rags and horn-blaring automobiles; of a people who deserted the turncoat oligarchs at the square in front of the Chamber of Commerce building; and of the same people who refuse to be deceived by the remarks of criminals or hired hands.

This is the voice of a people determined to protect their social and economic achievements, genuine political rights, sovereign and independent progress, and peace and security that the unscrupulous ambition of a few businessmen wants to destroy to again establish the disgraceful Nazi dictatorship that sold out to foreign imperialism.

Argentina

Alfonsin on Meeting With Sarney, Sanguinetti

PY062008 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1950 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Feb (TELAM)—Argentine President Raul Alfonsin returned to Argentina at 1620 after meeting with Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti in Colonia, Uruguay.

The presidential airplane landed in the military sector of the Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport at 1620. Alfonsin reassumed the Presidency in a brief ceremony.

In a conversation with the press Alfonsin said the meeting with the Brazilian and Uruguayan presidents was cordial, and the Latin American integration process was discussed.

Alfonsin added that he will visit Brazil in March to dedicate a uranium production plant that is part of the bilateral agreement signed with President Sarney last year.

Army Discharges Colonels Rico, Gonzalez Naya

PY052044 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2031 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Feb (TELAM)—The Defense Ministry reported that Lieutenant Colonels Aldo Rico and Arturo Gonzalez Naya were discharged from the Army.

Minister Jose Horacio Juanarena today signed resolution 131 discharging Aldo Rico and resolution 132 discharging Gonzalez Naya.

The decision to discharge Rico is based on the declaration of contempt of court dated 15 January in the case of alleged violation of discipline.

NCO's Released; Legal Proceedings Continue

PY051433 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2340 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Feb (NA)—Military courts today ordered that 64 Army noncommissioned officers held at the Magdalena Prison for involvement in the recent rebellion be released, while the cases against them continue.

These are noncommissioned officers from the Monte Caseros 4th Infantry Regiment, where the rebellion started. Upon release, they will return to their units.

This is the text of the communique:

The Army Joint Staff reports that:

1. Military Judge Colonel Mario Serra, retired, ordered the release of 64 noncommissioned officers from the 4th Infantry Regiment, while prosecution proceedings continue.

2. These personnel will be taken back to their unit today.

3. Eleven higher ranking officers, 41 lower ranking officers, and 4 noncommissioned officers are currently in custody at the Magdalena Prison.

Briefs

Peruvian Debt Rescheduled

Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (TELAM)—Officials of the Argentine and Peruvian Central Banks today signed an agreement rescheduling the $34-million Peruvian debt that fell due on 11 January. This agreement provides for paying off the debt in two equal installments on 10 February and 30 June of this year. [Summary] *[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2356 GMT 3 Feb 88 PY]*

Bolivia

Bedregal Stance at Vienna Drug Meeting Viewed

PY080201 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2153 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] La Paz, 6 Feb (EFE)—The COB expects Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal to ask the 8 February meeting in Vienna, which will analyze drug trafficking, not to consider the coca leaf a drug.

This was stated today by Filemon Escobar, an adviser to the producers of coca leaves, who signed an agreement with the government through the COB on 5 February.

In the agreement, the coca leaf producers promised to participate in the gradual substitution of part of the coca crop.

For its part, the government guaranteed it will submit a proposal to Congress asking it to approve legislation that will not consider the growing of coca leaves a crime.

According to Escobar, it is important that the Vienna meeting accept the term "agricultural reconversion" ["reconversion agricola"] instead of "eradication" of the coca crops and thus avoid "confusion in the implementation of policies and programs pertaining to the production of coca leaves."

Escobar also stressed this is the only way to obtain the support of the campesinos in replacing the crops.

The labor leader indicated that the authorities have to invest approximately $300 million in a 3-year program to help the producers.

Official Comments on Narcotics, Corruption

PY061636 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0144 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] La Paz, 5 Feb (EFE)—Social Defense Under Secretary Jorge Alderete today revealed that drug trafficking operations involve $3.6 billion per year. Alderete said most of "coca dollars" are laundered in the national financial system.

Alderete added, however, it is impossible to find out how the drug traffickers launder the money from their illegal activities. Alderete said: "The only thing we can prove is that the drug traffickers are corrupting our employees in order to continue their activities."

Alderete said corruption is spreading through the "merry-go-round" system by which the police seize the cocaine, then give it back to drug traffickers or go half-and-half with them.

Alderete stated that the Social Defense Under Secretariat, which is in charge of implementing the projects aimed at the struggle against drug traffickers and substitution of coca cultivation, is given only 3.2 million Bolivian pesos ($1.6 million) a year to cope with the huge economic power of drug trafficking.

Alderete added that the only way to cope with drug trafficking is through international cooperation, which Bolivia will call for at the meeting the UN commission on use of and illegal trafficking in narcotics will hold in Geneva starting 7 February.

Ministers To Seek Gas Payment From Argentina

PY051456 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Three Bolivian ministers will leave for Buenos Aires next week to meet with President Alfonsin and request payment of the Argentine debt for the purchase of Bolivian natural gas. Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, Finance Minister Juan Cariaga, and Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal will ask the Argentine Government to disburse approximately $70 million. Bedregal has stated that Bolivia urgently needs the money from the sale of gas; otherwise, the nation's treasury may run out of funds.

Planning Minister Sanchez de Lozada said nonpayment could cause problems in the Bolivian economy and the reactivation plan might be in danger. There also exists the risk of an economic recession, he said.

The finance minister has stated that the treasury is restricting funds and is only disbursing money for the government's urgent needs.

The three ministers will also meet with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and other government officials to explain the dangerous situation of the Bolivian economy. Minister Bedregal says it is necessary to adopt political measures in order to resolve the situation, which is possible with the help of President Alfonsin.

Brazil

Sarney Leaves for Montevideo, Bogota

PY051611 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] A few minutes ago, President Jose Sarney boarded the plane that will take him to Montevideo, Uruguay. At the Brasilia Air Base, a ceremony was held transferring the presidential office to Chamber of Deputies President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes.

Tomorrow, President Sarney will meet with Uruguayan Presdient Julio Sanguinetti and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin. On Sunday, he will fly from Montevideo to Bogota, Colombia, where he will negotiate an expansion of trade between the two countries and express support for the fight against drug trafficking. The president will return to Brazil next Thursday, 11 February.

Views Relations With Church

PY060009 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpt] President Jose Sarney today departed for Uruguay, and from there he will go to Colombia on 7 February. Upon boarding the airplane at the Brasilia Air Base, President Sarney said there is no crisis between the Catholic Church and the government.

At approximately 1300 President Sarney transferred the Presidency to Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes. Several politicians and ministers came to bid the president farewell. Apostolic Nuncio Carlo Furno held a 5-minute private talk with Sarney.

[Begin Sarney recording] There are no disagreements between the church and the state. I am an old friend of Luciano Mendes de Almeida [president of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops], and this friendship predates my administration. Therefore, our friendship has deep roots because we both come from the State of Maranhao. As a member of the Christian community, as a Christian, I have the right--even the duty—to inform the church to which I belong about events. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Army To Rigorously Punish Acts of Indiscipline

PY041404 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Feb 88 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—With all the rigor that its Disciplinary Regulations (RDE) permit, the Army will punish any officer who speaks out against Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves. In this case the maximum sentence is 20 days imprisonment in a military unit.

This guideline has been sent to all Military Area Commands by the War Minister's office. The idea is to prevent an increase of indisciplined actions within the service.

An officer attached to the minister's office said it is necessary to resolve the problem at the source.

The officer also stated that for the time being 5 cases of indiscipline in a force of 192,000 men is just a drop in the ocean.

The fact that the minister's advisers have asked the Disciplinary Council for the files pertaining to the cases of Captains Fabio and Bolsonaro demonstrates the Army's concern about the problem.

Army Minister Cited

PY061353 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial: "The True Soldier," by Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves; reprinted from the 4 February issue of NOTICIARIO DO EXERCITO]

[Text] Once again, Brazil is facing political, economic, and social difficulties that must be overcome.

In such circumstances, the expressions of general concern are justified and even salutary to the extent they reflect a patriotic concern and a dynamic attitude, which are indispensable for the recovery of the economy and the political consolidation of democracy.

Firm in its cohesion with the Armed Forces and firm in its historical role, the Army shares that patriotic concern and the national effort from which the democratic consolidation and economic recovery should result.

This cohesion, this democratic stance, and the importance of the Army as a factor of political-institutional stability stand in the way of antidemocratic minority sectors that are always determined to run over the will and the rights of the majority.

The obvious effort at this time to blow out of proportion individual acts of indiscipline with the deliberate intent of suggesting or provoking disunity in the Army can only be attributed to those opposed to democracy or the sensationalists.

The individual acts that are being exploited for that purpose are insignificant, because they were engaged in by elements who, in the despair resulting from their personal nonconformity, have lost their good sense and no longer command respect from their colleagues in the ranks.

These attitudes defy hierarchy and discipline, but are lacking in moral force to undermine that hierarchy and discipline. They only hurt the reputation of those who adopt such attitudes.

In fact, and fortunately, those demonstrations can be counted on one's fingers. Their roots can be found either in recklessness and ignorance of the real facts of the situation, or in personal resentments and frustrations. In both instances, the demonstrations reveal personal vanity rather than patriotism.

These cases, even when added to demonstrations of mistaken complacency, are small in number and significance. They do not count when compared with the attitude of the true Army of professionals who, in active service or in the reserve, remain, with the firmness and austerity of true soldiers, invariably respectful of discipline, hierarchy, and their solemn oath to devote themselves entirely to the nation's service, repudiating those who, breaching discipline, seek the notoriety they crave at any price.

Only with men of such attributes of perseverance, austerity, and loyalty to Brazil will the country overcome its present difficulties.

This is the cause of the Army and the duty of all good patriots, of all worthy and honest soldiers—the authentic soldiers.

Cooperation With Venezuela on Drugs Discussed

PY051341 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Brazil and Venezuela have laid the foundations for more flexible cooperation in fighting drug trafficking along their common border. Justice Minister Paulo Brossard and Venezuelan Interior Affairs Minister Jose Ciliberto met yesterday in Manaus to discuss ways in which that cooperation might be facilitated. [Brossard recording indistinct]

Federal Police Director Romeu Tuma, who participated in the meeting, said this plan will not violate President Sarney's orders, but that he will appeal those orders in exceptional cases. [Tuma recording indistinct]

Minister Brossard will return to Brasilia this afternoon after a 3-day stay in the Amazonas region.

Chile

Orozco Willing To Cooperate in Letelier Case

PY060126 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] General Hector Orozco has said he will cooperate with the courts as he has always done, but will not make any comments for the time being. Gen Orozco left this

message at his home. The message refers to U.S. Judge Barrington Parker's request for permission from the Chilean courts to question Gen Orozco regarding the Letelier case.

The Chilean Foreign Ministry forwarded to the Supreme Court Judge Parker's request to question Gen Orozco on several details regarding the case. Orozco was in charge of the investigation carried out in Chile.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Ducci pointed out that the ministry has nothing to comment on regarding the case, because it is essentially a legal matter.

Government Rejects Bolivian Minister's Remarks

PY041823 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry has released a communique categorically rejecting a statement by Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal, published by a Santiago morning newspaper today, in which Bedregal mentions the Bolivian aspirations for access to the sea. The communique was read by spokesman Carlos Ducci:

[Begin Ducci recording] In connection with a statement by the Bolivian foreign minister, published today by the news media, in which the minister refers to his country's aspirations to gain access to the sea, the Chilean Foreign Ministry reiterates its rejection of the Bolivian contention and warns that the constant repetition of the Bolivian position will not modify the Chilean people's stance on a matter that involves national sovereignty. [end recording]

We reiterate that the Foreign Ministry has categorically rejected the remarks by Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal, which were published by a Santiago newspaper, in which Bedregal refers to the Bolivian aspiraton to gain access to the sea. In an interview granted in La Paz, Bedregal said, among other things, that dogmatism has prevailed in the Chilean Government instead of reason. [passage omitted]

Pinochet Scores Opposition Transition Proposal

PY052138 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0411 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Santiago, 4 Feb (EFE)—Chilean President General Augusto Pinochet today said: "This is an all-out war between democrats and totalitarian communists."

Pinochet made this comment upon the death of a Carabineros officer in an explosion in a northern Santiago district.

Asked about the government program recently presented by six opposition political parties, Gen Pinochet said the program represents "total chaos."

In a conversation with local reporters today, Pinochet said: "This program is interesting because many things in it are similar to what we have. Their program copies our program; they only made it look better. However, the important thing to note is that after 4 years of that government, the country would be in total chaos."

The government program presented by the opposition proposes a 4-year transition government and the election of a constituent assembly. The program was presented by the Christian Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party, the National Democratic Party, the Liberal Republican Party, the Humanist Party, and the Popular Socialist Union.

Gen Pinochet labeled 1988 the year of the plebiscite because it will decide the type of government Chile will have for the next 8 years. He added: "1988 is a decisive year for democracy but the totalitarians are trying to create problems."

According to the Constitution promulgated by Pinochet in 1981, the Armed Forces will submit to a plebiscite in 1988 the candidate they have chosen for president for the 1989-1997 term. Direct elections would be held in 1990 only if the majority of Chileans vote No.

The nomination of the candidate must be by unanimous vote of the junta of the commanders of the Armed Forces (of which Gen Pinochet is a member) and the Carabineros director. It must be announced at least 90 days before the conclusion of the current government term (11 March 1989).

Pinochet added: "I have been saying for a long time that we are waging a war but people are not able to understand it. People live in another world. There is a war between democrats and totalitarian communists. We are waging an all-out war."

Official on Agreement

PY060251 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Minister Secretary General of Government Orlando Poblete has described as a destructive plan the agreement of 13 political parties to oppose the regime in the plebiscite.

Referring to the appeal by 13 parties for a No vote in the plebiscite, Poblete said their plan begins with a mobilization campaign which is synonymous with violence, destruction, and death. He also said the document of the 13 political parties insists on creating confusion by stating that the plebiscite is a fraud that will allow the regime to arrange the elections beforehand.

Poblete said the proposal of the 13 political parties upholds the defeat of the regime and its institutionalization process. It also establishes a 4-year transition period after the plebiscite to carry out reforms.

[Begin Poblete recording] Therefore, their proposal ignores the Constitution because it discards its provisions concerning what would happen if the candidate proposed by the Armed Forces commanders and Carabineros director were rejected. This means the opposition is confirming that the No option in the plebiscite is synonymous with instability, insecurity, and chaos. [end recording] Poblete said the government will be strengthened by the plebiscite and its economic and political work will be approved in the election. He also said the government platform of the 13 political parties is far from being a valid alternative. Besides, he said, the results of the 4-year [transition] period it proposes would be uncertain and negative.

The government official said the opposition platform's lack of concrete proposals and definitions and its socialist leanings will turn it into another failure. In conclusion, he said the opposition has been unable to overcome its political weaknesses.

MAPU Supports No Vote in Plebiscite

PY032017 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The United Popular Action Movement-Workers and Peasants Faction [MAPU-Workers and Peasants] has pointed out it is up to the opposition to combine force, skill, and organization to prevent fraud in the upcoming plebiscite.

MAPU leaders made these remarks upon releasing a note on the results of a recent plenary meeting of its Central Committee.

The note states in part that the weakest point of the opposition is the permanent confusion in the leadership of the popular movements, and this confusion neutralizes the efforts of most members of the opposition.

The note adds that the splittist tendencies of some opposition sectors make the indispensable unity more difficult to realize.

It emphasizes the necessity of fighting for free elections, and advocates acceptance of the plebiscite if this is the way to subsequently lead the country toward free elections.

The MAPU-Workers and Peasants note states that overcoming the difficulties and conditions to take part in the plebiscite depends exclusively on the opposition and its ability to prevent fraud at the plebiscite.

The MAPU note concludes by saying that the plenary meeting agreed to support the party's decision to fight for democracy and to support the efforts of all members of the opposition in their campaign for voting no in the plebiscite.

Group Proposes Gen Viaux To Head 'Transition'

PY031454 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1927 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Santiago, 2 Feb (EFE)—General Roberto Viaux, retired, has accepted the proposal "to normalize the country" made by a private study center that nominated him to head the political transition that will follow the 1988 referendum.

In his response, which is published in today's issue of the newspaper FORTIN MAPOCHO, Viaux states that "if my name will help national reconciliation, then my efforts would have the objective of returning freedom to the people and dignity to the Armed Forces."

The Minerva Center, which defines itself as an interdisciplinary group of professionals, states in a public document that "the political transition must be headed by a man who will be supported by the civilian opposition and by the Armed Forces—Roberto Viaux Marambio—if the country is to be normalized."

In its analysis of the current political situation, the center warns about the dangers of the upcoming referendum, the outcome of which will decide the type of government for the 1989-97 term. [passage omitted]

The professionals of the study center have indicated that "Pinochet will be a jump ahead of everyone, both supporters and adversaries, by having the Armed Forces face a fait accompli, announcing himself as the candidate who will obtain the necessary votes of support."

The Minerva Center concludes by saying that a 2-year transition period is needed after the referendum if the situation is to be normalized.

Union Leader on 'Undeclared State of Siege'

PY052248 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1438 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Santiago, 5 Feb (EFE)—National Workers' Command (CNT) leaders today said that in Chile "there is a plan to prevent the people from expressing their will." They added: "We are in fact living under a state of siege."

Chilean CNT leader Victor Hugo Gac commented on recent remarks by government officials and on the recent attacks in which a Carabinero and three youths died.

Gac said the government intends to impose an undeclared state of siege on the country before the upcoming referendum that will confirm a new administration to govern the country for the next 8 years. [passage omitted]

The labor leader said government officials recently have been "threatening to adopt some measures under the pretext of putting an end to certain situations, but they never explain what these measures will be."

According to Gac, "it is being said that no state of siege will be declared. It is also being said that the government will adopt certain disagreeable repressive measures, which will not necessarily be in accordance with the law. This is an undeclared state of siege."

FPMR Responsible for Valparaiso Bombing

PY051500 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 26 Jan 88 p A-10

[By Gonzalo Cruz Bizama]

[Excerpt] Valparaiso—In phone calls yesterday to the media, members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) claimed responsibility for the bombing at the municipal parking lot. The terrorist action was conducted by a group of four men and a woman. The bombing caused considerable damage, including the destruction of 11 parked vehicles, 8 of which were owned by the municipality of Valparaiso. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Car Bomb Explodes Outside Occidental Petroleum

PA061540 Paris AFP in Spanish 1445 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpt] A car packed with explosives blew up this morning in front of the headquarters of the U.S. multinational Occidental Petroleum. The Bogota police told AFP that the bomb injured two people and caused heavy damage.

The Camilitas Brigades of the National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrilla group claimed the attack, which occurred in northern Bogota.

William Cruz, a Bogota government official, told AFP that a Fiat blew up in front of the Occidental Petroleum building. Occidental Petroleum is one of the companies producing oil in the Arauca region.

Cruz added that windows were destroyed in a three-block area around the building. The Occidental Petroleum building and a Chinese restaurant were heavily damaged.

In claiming the attack, the ELN said it will continue such attacks to protest oil production by foreign firms, saying the oil is "Colombian and should be for Colombians."

The ELN has attacked the Cano-Limon-Covenas pipeline, which carries crude oil from the Venezuelan border area to the Atlantic coast, eight times this year. [passage omitted]

13 Injured in Explosion

PA062040 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] A new terrorist attack occurred during the last few hours. The target this time was the building housing the Colombian offices of Occidental Petroleum. Thirteen people were injured, some seriously. A car with 20 kg of dynamite was left in front of the building, located on 77th Street and 11th Avenue in northern Bogota.

The dynamite attack caused more than 100 million pesos in damage to the Occidental offices. The explosion was so strong that parts of the vehicle flew 20 to 30 meters away. A 2-meter crater can be seen at the site. Most windows of nearby houses were totally destroyed. Occidental officials reported they had received threats of a terrorist attack. The self-styled ELN has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The company offices were totally destroyed. The authorities said there were more than 20 kg of dynamite in the car. The car that was used was a Fiat 147, which was totally destroyed.

Two of the company's guards were seriously injured in the attack. At this time, residents of nearby houses are cleaning up the glass shattered by the explosion. The area is now under military control and agents of the F-2 antiexplosives squad are analyzing the remains of the car bomb.

The most recent dynamite attack in Bogota was on the installations of the Oveja Negra publishing house.

Police Arrest Suspects in Mauro Hoyos Killing

PA040130 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The Medellin police believe two youths who were arrested in that city yesterday participated in the attack on and murder of Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos. The youths were identified by an eyewitness. This is the only evidence of their alleged involvement.

The brothers Alejandro Duque Erazo, alias El Raton, 19, a junk dealer, and Ernesto Duque Erazo, alias El Pajaro, 21, a photographer, were arrested in an operation by two officials, two subofficials, and two city policemen. The two individuals were captured on the basis of a description provided by a witness after an operation carried out between 1900 and 0100.

In the next few hours, the two men will be arraigned before three special criminal judges, who will decide where they are to be imprisoned. Despite their youth, they have a lengthy criminal record in several parts of the country, although not in Medellin. [passage omitted]

54 Persons Killed in 2 Days of Violence

PA080159 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1834 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Bogota, 7 Feb (EFE)—Colombia's criminal and political violence over the past 48 hours has left at least 54 persons dead. The violence includes clashes between guerrilla and military forces, assassinations, "clean-ups" by anticriminal squads, and street crimes.

Medellin, 450 km northeast of Bogota, stands out in this count; 27 people, including a left-wing Patriotic Union deputy councilman's father and a student, were killed there late Friday and early Saturday alone.

In Jerico, 104 km southeast of Medellin, two policemen and five EPL [Popular Liberation Army] guerrillas were killed Saturday during the guerrillas' fight to capture Jerico and the subsequent pursuit by military and police forces.

In San Vicente de Chucuri, Santander Department, 300 km northeast of Bogota, six soldiers and five Camilist Union-ELN (UC-ELN) guerrillas were killed.

The soldiers and guerrillas were killed when the guerrillas ambushed "Caldas Battalion" troops who were repairing a nearby road.

Also in San Vicente de Chucuri, unidentified individuals murdered Police Inspector Marcos Millan today.

The secretary of Itagui's Council, Pastor Estrada, 55, was also shot to death in the Liberal Party's regional headquarters, near Medellin.

Several merchants were murdered in southeastern Cali and midwestern Caldas.

While some of the fatalities were the result of clashes, others are attributed to a mix of the ultraright's dirty war; "clean-up" actions by anticriminal death squads; extortions; purges and retaliations between criminals and drug traffickers; and street crime.

Regional UP Leader Gunned Down in Tolima

PA021254 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1648 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota, 31 Jan (DPA)—It was reported today in Bogota that a regional leader of the Patriotic Union (UP), a leftist Colombian movement, was killed a few hours ago in Planadas Municipality, Tolima Department.

UP leader Baltazar Lima, 28, former leftist councilman in Planadas and a possible UP candidate for mayor in that municipality, was shot by an unidentified person at a barber shop.

UP spokesmen in Tolima stated that in Planadas there is open persecution of those who attended the funeral of leftist candidate Demetrio Aldana, who was also assassinated. An army corporal is being blamed for this persecution.

Meanwhile, in the city of Zipaquira, less than 50 km from Bogota, Mayor Hernando Garcia, a councilman, and a political leader were slightly injured following an attack by opposition group members in incidents that led to the implementation of the dry law.

Former department Deputy Alfonso Rey was arrested for heading the disorders.

In a similar incident, Jose Vicente Tovar, a progovernment councilman from Alvarado municipality, Tolima Department, ecaped injury when he was attacked in a rural area near that town. The assailants, who hid themselves behind bushes, missed the councilman, even though several bullets hit his vehicle.